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SITUATION DUE TO FARMERS.

MR. B. HARRIS ON CONDITION OF COTTON MARKET.

Former President of Farmers' Union Says Farmers Can Only Blame Themselves for Low Prices—Curtailed of Crop and Raising Home Supplies for 1912 Will Put Price Back to 15 Cents, He Says.

Charleston News and Courier.

Relative to the deplorable condition of the cotton market, and in view of the various plans for remedying the situation, Mr. B. Harris, of Pendleton, formerly president of the Farmers' Union of the State, has written the following for The News and Courier:

We saw cotton last August sell for 11 1-2 cents and inside of ninety days the same grade of cotton sold for 3 3-4 cents. There is something radically wrong when such wide variations in price occur. There is no other commodity under the heavens with such a fall in price. According to statistics the world needs every bale that will be made this year. If what I have stated above be true, there must be some cause for the drop in the price of cotton. It is up to the farmers who are the producers to find out the cause, and it is up to them to remedy it. Will they do it? I cannot say. Can they remedy it? I answer emphatically, they can. How? By diversifying their crops so as to make them self-supporting.

Now, I do not want to appeal to your prejudices, but I want to appeal to your good common "horse" sense. I know that there are only a few of our farmers that realize just what South Carolina is spending annually for products which she ought to raise here at home, and these products can be raised in this State for about half of the amount it is now being paid to buy elsewhere.

Flour \$20,000,000, bacon and lard \$17,250,000, horses and mules \$12,500,000, hay and oats \$11,500,000, corn \$13,000,000, fertilizers \$25,000,000, and I will just state that there is only just about 15 per cent of this money that ever gets back to us. There is no State in the Union that can raise the above articles cheaper than South Carolina. Horses and mules can be raised from birth until they are three years old for \$75 each. Pork can be produced at a cost of three cents per pound gross. Corn has been raised at a cost of 12 1-2 cents per bushel. Any farmer can raise it for 35 cents per bushel. The farmer who buys corn this year will give \$1 for it, so just remember when you buy a bushel of corn you are giving one dollar for 35 cents—or, in fact, any other commodity which you buy that could be raised on your farm, you are swapping at the same ratio.

Farmers, stop, think, consider what you are doing. Add what we are buying and the total amounts to \$69,250,000. Now let us see what our cotton crop will bring. Say we will make this year in South Carolina, in round numbers, 1,500,000 bales of cotton. Suppose the average price is \$40 per bale—our crop will sell for \$60,000,000. The cotton seed will bring approximately about \$7 per bale, making the total seed raised sell for \$10,500,000.

You will now see that the cotton crop and the seed will not pay for the commodities that we have bought elsewhere. Now, brother farmers, when such conditions as I have pointed out to you exist, you need not be surprised to see cotton drop in price from 15 1-2 cents to 3 3-4 cents inside of ninety days. I want to say to you that we, the farmers, are to blame for this and no one else. It is up to you and no one else. It is up to you to remedy the situation.

As to higher prices for the remainder of the 1911 crop, I want to say to you that it all depends on the acreage that you plant during the year 1912 and the amount of fertilizer that you buy. As to the price at which you will sell for the 1912 crop, I want to say if you desire 5-cent cotton, just plant the same acreage that you planted during 1911 and buy just as much fertilizer as you did last year, and you will have it. However, if you want 15-cent cotton, just cut your cotton acreage 30 per cent, with a like curtail in the fertilizer used last year, and plant the 30 per cent reduction in corn and oats and you can make the price 15 cents. Of course, some-

our farmers will say that Mr. Jones is going to cut his cotton crop and I will just plant a little more. Now the man that will do that is not a true man to his neighbors and to his country, and when he passes over the river he will soon be forgotten. Brother farmers, stand for the right thing and the right thing to do now is to cut cotton acreage 30 per cent, with a like reduction in the use of fertilizers.

After our experience in 1911, why should we have to be solicited to reduce cotton acreage? It has been previously demonstrated to us that a 14,000,000 bale crop will bring about \$200,000,000 less money than our 12,100,000 bale crop at 1910, so you see we have practically raised 3,000,000 bales of cotton for nothing. Why will the farmers do such a thing—raise two bales of cotton to get the price one ought to sell for? Remember you did it, do not blame anyone else. Who is to remedy this state of affairs? I say the farmers, you who produce the cotton.

I wish to state to you, brother farmers, that you are up against the largest proposition you have ever been up against and you have got to fight the battle.

As to the cotton mill managers, I do not blame them. They have merged for their own benefit, so as to buy the raw material cheaper and to sell their finished product better, and they can certainly control their labor better. So it is now up to the farmers to join the Farmers' Union, and stand shoulder to shoulder, cooperate with each other. Stand as one man and if you will do this and make home self-supporting, you can, always dictate the price you will sell your cotton for. I have heard many farmers and like expressions from other professions, that we would not see any more cheap cotton. I told them that they had not studied the cotton situation. We are all wiser than we were a year ago. We have practically raised three million bales of cotton for nothing during the past year. Brother farmers, it is as plain as A B C as to what is the matter. It is ruinous to any country to have only one crop. Let me remind you farmers that we did it—we raised the enormous crop and put this stick in the hands of our enemies to crack our own heads with and they have used it on us to their own good. The stick was the three million bales that we raised for nothing. It was a bear on the cotton market, which has forced the price of cotton down to below the cost of production.

Now, in conclusion, I want to say a word in justice to our bankers. They have been quite liberal for the past year, having allowed our farmers the money to raise the enormous crop of cotton, and they did all they could to let them hold their cotton for better prices, and many of them have almost strained their own credit to tide over their customers. Farmers, you are the ones that make high price cotton and you are also the ones that make low price cotton. Which do you want for 1912 High or low? If you want low prices for your cotton this fall, do not cut acreage. If you want high prices, cut your acreage 30 per cent, as well as the use of fertilizers and plant oats and corn. The conditions that exist in South Carolina is the same in every cotton State, which shows why cotton is selling below the cost of production.

KILLED BY HIS OWN GUN.
Distressing Accident with Williamsburg Farmer the Victim.

Kingstree, Jan. 17.—News reached here this afternoon, over the local telephone, that James Dean, a white man of the Hebron neighborhood, in Williamsburg County, had accidentally shot and killed himself this morning. It seems that Mr. Dean and Mr. R. L. Mimms had gone out in the woods to get a load of wood, Mr. Dean taking his gun along. They ran into a covey of partridges and Mr. Dean killed two or three of them. While coming back to the wagon, and holding the gun by the barrel, he attempted to cross a log, when the hammer of the gun struck a log and the gun was discharged, the whole load taking effect in the neck, and completely severing the jugular vein. The wounded man expired almost instantly.

The lights at the Atlantic Coast Line railroad station which were put up some time ago and shortly afterwards blown down by the wind are being reinstated, this time so that the wind cannot break them off.

INSPECTOR PAID BY BLEASE.

APPOINTED L. M. GREEN AS HIS REPRESENTATIVE IN THIS STATE.

Reduced Expenditure and More Work Claimed by New Arrangement. Message to Senate Yesterday.

Columbia, Jan. 18.—"When the various counties refused to pay my detectives, of course this hampered me in the discharge of my duties, but in order to have this work thoroughly done I appointed Col. L. M. Green as inspector," said the governor yesterday in a special message to the senate.

The governor said that the results achieved by Col. Green, his inspector, are thorough, and his report is in detail. In speaking of the work done, Gov. Blease said: "I am satisfied it was more thoroughly done than if done by the inspectors provided for in that act." He also asserts that \$3,400 was saved. Col. Green was paid \$1,000 for his work.

Col. Green's report appended to the message is quite a voluminous document. The governor's message follows:

"When I vetoed certain amounts for inspectors at the last session of the general assembly it was my intention to save this amount to the State by having my State and county detectives do the work that had been provided for these inspectors, but when various counties refused to pay my detectives of course this hampered me in the discharge of my duties, but in order to have this work thoroughly done I appointed Col. L. M. Green as inspector, and herewith submit to you his detailed report. I paid him for this work \$1,000. I am satisfied it was more thoroughly done than if it had been done by inspectors as provided for in that act, and it has been done, as you see, at quite a saving, for the two inspectors would have cost for the year \$3,400, including their expenses; while the amount mentioned here paid Col. Green covers salary and all expenses, Col. Green having made his full report and retired from the service on December 31, 1911."

The inspectors referred to are those factory inspectors appointed by the department of immigration, agriculture and industries, the appropriation for whose salaries Gov. Blease vetoed at the last session of the legislature.

KNOWS WHEREOF HE SPEAKS.

"E. I. R." Claims to Know the Remedy for Too Much "Hot Air."

Ex-Health Officer E. I. Reardon says that he is expecting, hourly to be called to Washington in consultation with President Taft, and Surgeon General Blue, of the Public Health and Marine Hospital service in regard to Postmaster General Hitchcock's troubles of "talking over time." Mr. Reardon says that a little over one year ago, he, the aforesaid "E. I. R." talked and wrote himself out of several jobs. Now it transpires that this disease of talking yourself out of a good paying office has been found not to be peculiar to fools as was considered the primary cause of the affliction in his case, but it is now believed to be a contagious disease which attacks even men of marked intellectuality and political shrewdness as is shown in the case of Mr. Hitchcock.

Mr. Reardon has offered his services to the president and claims to be able to correctly diagnose the Postmaster General's troubles and guarantees that he can offer the afflicted cabinet officer a remedy which he, Reardon, has learned under treatment of Chairman J. P. Booth of the committee on public works of the city council of Sumter.

Just after Mr. Reardon got hot in the collar and resigned his office of Health Officer, Chairman Booth appointed him an inspector in the public works department inspecting the building of concrete work and making of cement drain pipe. He told Mr. Reardon, (so the latter says), to go out to the pipe factory just outside the city limits, attend to his business and "learn how to keep your mouth shut, and nurse your job."

Mr. Reardon is thinking of asking Chairman Booth to go to Washington with him, to assist in prescribing a remedy for General Hitchcock if the president sends for Mr. Reardon.

Street Commissioner White Thursday morning had his gang of street hands opening up a drain near the sidewalk so that the water from the melting snow could run off readily.

A BATTLE WITH SNOW BALLS.

Ladies Enjoy the Snow—Coldest Weather Since 1886—Personal News.

Mayesville, Jan. 17.—Mayesville, like nearly every other place, has been snow and ice bound for the past few days, but is now beginning to thaw out. According to the oldest inhabitants, as the papers always say, this has been one of the most severe cold spells ever experienced in this section and the snow fall was probably the deepest. In January, 1886, the cold was more severe for at that time, the waters of Black River and Scape O'er Swamps were frozen over and a person could walk over the streams on the thick ice. This spell was not that severe but all are agreed that it was cold enough.

On Monday afternoon, a battle royal with snow balls was held between two companies of ladies from East and West Mayesville, the Eastenders winning. After the battle, the ladies came down town and for sometime a great deal of amusement was had on the streets between the ladies and the young men. Snow balls flew thick and fast and many timid ones were afraid to venture forth from their places of business. The ladies, of course, carried the day. There were no casualties to report except a few broken windows.

Business conditions are very dull at present and nobody seems to have begun work in earnest for the new year as yet, probably owing to the inclement weather following the holiday season. Moving has been the order of the day among the agricultural element, both white and black, and from the number of wagons passing through town with household and other goods, nearly everybody in the surrounding country appears to have made a change. No business changes of any importance took place in town.

Rev. Junius Mills of the Piedmont section is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Mills.

Mr. and Mrs. Moultrie Reid of St. Charles visited their daughter, Mrs. G. Thomas this week.

Mrs. H. A. Knox and children have returned from a visit to her former home at Richland, S. C.

Mrs. H. C. Bland and daughter, Coralie, are visiting the former's parents at Chapin, S. C.

Miss Minnie Chandler has gone to visit friends in Bishopville.

Miss Fannie Chandler has returned from Columbia, where she has been visiting relatives.

Mrs. Minnie Atkins Simmons of Brooklyn, N. Y., has been on a visit to her father, Capt. J. E. Atkins.

Mr. H. C. Bland is attending federal court in Columbia this week as a jurymen.

Mr. T. B. Fort went to Timmonsville on Wednesday on a business trip.

CONGRESS SITS TILL AUGUST.

Awkward for Republicans, as Their Convention Being in Chicago, Members Will Be Somewhat Embarrassed, It is Thought.

Washington, Jan. 17.—Both Democratic and Republican leaders in the house of representatives today agreed that there was little likelihood of congress adjourning before August next. It was said that this probability largely influenced the Democrats in choosing Baltimore as the national convention city. The Republicans will have a more awkward situation to deal with in having their convention in Chicago with congress in session. The condition of congress in session during national convention periods has not existed since 1892.

"There is no reason on earth why congress can not adjourn by the first week in June," said Senator Smoot of Utah.

"If we are kept here longer than that there will be a political reason for it. I have heard it said that the Democratic convention, was sent to Baltimore so that the Democrats in congress could attend the convention while congress was still in session."

MAY SECURE FLOWER SEED.

Those Who Desire Seed May Get Them by Calling for Them.

Packages of flower seed sent out by the Government Department will be gladly given away to children interested in Civic League gardens.

Those who desire these seed will call for them at No. 14 Washington Street.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NOTES

Why the Sumter Chamber of Commerce is Interested in All Manner of Civic Improvements—City Trees, Sidewalks, Streets, Yards, Etc.

Occasionally some citizen asks why the Sumter Chamber of Commerce is so deeply interested in the city government and generally in civic improvement. In fact it has only been within the last few years that American commercial organizations have viewed this subject in its proper light.

It is significant that since they have taken up this subject that they have increased rapidly in numbers and their influence has spread throughout the entire land. Many of these organizations have promoted the "Spotless Town Day, when the entire city has undergone a cleaning, back and front yards alike. Mayors have issued proclamations and the schools and stores were closed and every man, woman and child in town went to work to scrub that town clean. Photographs of filthy back yards were taken and put on slides and shown to the public. There are a number of these yards in Sumter that would not show up well in a photograph. It is now recognized by all commercial and industrial forces that a city must be clean and attractive before it can grow. Industries will come to and the necessary labor will live in those cities only that show a proper civic pride, cleanliness, well paved streets, paved sidewalks, attractive home and trees, schools and churches, public libraries, public parks and public buildings.

Discussing in the American Lumberman the Christmas spirit applied to business, H. F. Miller, business manager of the association, writes: "The business mind is above all things a practical mind. It discards all theories based on hysteria or unsound logic. Convince the business man that it is good policy for him to organize with his fellows, co-operate with his competitors, and extend his acquaintance, and he soon learns to capitalize acquaintance and good fellowship and to clip the coupons of profit from the bonds of fraternity without the sacrifice of a single principle and without the infraction of the most delicate rules governing the fitness of things and good business ethics.

"In nearly every large and progressive city in the United States there is today at least one big strong aggressive organization of progressive business men banded together in good fellowship and working earnestly along lines of efficient organization and practical co-operation to a degree which would have been impossible only a few years ago.

"It is frequently said and written that the spirit of organization is abroad in the land. According to official report there are no less than four thousand commercial clubs and similar local commercial organizations in the United States. Civic work has had no place in the old-fashioned commercial organization. The broader modern idea is responsible for the combination of altruism and good business, and in the fusion of the elements involved a chemical reaction has resulted which means much to the business world and to the world at large.

"The business association which encourages public improvements, cooperates with the public authorities to secure economic and effective administration, safeguards the public health, secures for the individual and his possessions protection against the lawless and raises the standards of living by directing the influence of public opinion in many ways hitherto neglected—this association is 'getting business' and is getting it by means that are farsighted and enduring. This work is new work.

"Not until the local civic and commercial organizations have broadened their influence through statewide co-operation and then expanded through country-wide fraternalism will they compass their greatest sphere of usefulness."

WANTS CANTEN RESTORED.

Petition Before Congress in Behalf of "Moral and Physical Health of Soldiers."

Washington, Jan. 16.—A petition urging the restoration of the army canteen was presented to Congress today by Representative Bartholdt, of Missouri. It bore the signatures of more than three hundred physicians and three hundred and twenty-six mothers and wives of army men. It contended that "the moral and physical health of soldiers requires the re-establishment of the canteen."

ACCUSED MINISTER ARRESTED

DENIES GUILT IN CONNECTION WITH GIRL'S DEATH.

Rev. W. D. McFarland, D. D., Wanted in Pittsburg for Criminal Operations Upon Miss Elsie Dodds Coe, His Secretary, Resulting in Her Death, Arrested in Tennessee—Denies Guilt.

Pittsburg, Jan. 16.—An indictment was returned by the grand jury late today against the Rev. W. D. McFarland, minister and educator, of Cedar Creek, Calhoun County, Tenn., formerly of this city, charging him with a felony in committing two operations upon Miss Elsie Dodds Coe, his former secretary, which resulted in her death last Friday in a local hospital.

According to a report here tonight the Rev. Mr. McFarland has been arrested by the Tennessee authorities, and will be held at Knoxville until the arrival of a Pittsburg officer.

Rollin McConnell, of Chicago, who represents a local firm in that city, mentioned in Miss Coe's dying statement as being responsible for her condition, reached here today and conferred with District Attorney W. A. Blakeley. Later McConnell went before the grand jury and testified of his relations with the deceased. There is no charge against McConnell.

McFarland was formerly head of the academic department of the Pittsburg High School. Miss Coe, aged 28, had been Dr. McFarland's secretary. He is about 60 years of age and married.

Greenville, Tenn., Jan. 16.—The Rev. W. D. McFarland, D. D., wanted in Pittsburg in connection with the recent death of Miss Elsie Dodds Coe, was arrested today, and is being held pending the arrival of Pennsylvania officers. At his preliminary trial this afternoon he was remanded to jail, without bond, and the case continued for three days at the request of the State counsel.

At the hearing Dr. McFarland made an emphatic denial of the charges against him, asserting that he was in no way responsible either for the condition of Miss Coe or for her death. He expressed regret because of the sorrow the publication of the charges would bring to his family, and declared that he was ready to return to Pennsylvania without requisition papers in order to clear up the charges against him.

CHANGE OF INAUGURATION DATE.

House Committee Reports Favorably on Henry Resolution.

Washington, Jan. 16.—The House judiciary committee today ordered favorably reported the Henry resolution, changing the date of the Presidential inauguration from March 4 to the last Thursday in April, and the term of Representatives in Congress to begin the second Tuesday in January, instead of on March 4. These changes would be effective April, 1917, and January, 1918, respectively.

The Henry resolution would provide for extension of the term of the President and Vice President elected in 1912 to the last Thursday of April, 1917. Congress would convene annually on the second Tuesday in January. This bill would leave the biennial elections in November, except in Oregon in June, and in Maine and Vermont in September. Several Democratic members reserved the right to amend the resolution on the floor. The bill would also give Congress constitutional power to legislate as to succession where there is a vacancy on account of the death or inability of the President-elect and Vice President-elect between the counting of the electoral vote and the inauguration.

"There is a complete hiatus here at present," said Mr. Henry, "and should these officials die or become totally disabled between those dates there is now no authority for filling the vacancies."

Unprecedented.

Noting the action of the House of Representatives at Columbia in passing the dispensary investigation measure over the Governor's veto by a unanimous vote of 104 to 0, the Columbia State suggests that "it is unlikely that the incident was unique in the annals of American legislation." So is Governor Blease among American executives.—News and Courier.