

WARNING ON COTTON ACREAGE.

Commissioner Watson Issues Address to Farmers of South on Subject—Price Must be Fixed Soon.

E. J. Watson, commissioner of agriculture and president of the Southern Cotton congress, in an open letter sounds a note of warning to the farmers of the South as to an over-acreage in cotton.

Mr. Watson repeats the warning made several weeks ago with reference to this matter and urges a decrease of the cotton acreage for 1913. The letter is as follows:

To the Cotton Growers of the South: A week or two ago, feeling it my duty to do so, I sounded a note of warning to you against planting too large an acreage of cotton this year. I said to you that you were now facing a greater danger at this planting season than you had faced in several years. The course of events since that time led me to again appeal to you not to increase, but if anything, rather decrease the cotton acreage for the year 1913.

Commenting on the brief address issued to you a short time ago, Southern Farming, in a leading editorial on March 1, has the following: "The question of over production of cotton, through too big an acreage, with consequent low prices, is adequately covered in Col. Watson's appeal. Read it on an earlier page. Southern Farming has unbounded faith in the farmers of the South, but we know from actual experience that there is no word under the sun so sweet to farmers as cotton."

"Farmers of the South, you know perfectly well that the price of cotton next fall will be largely determined within the next two months, and you know that you are the ones who will determine it mostly. We ask you earnestly to give this matter the serious attention which its importance justifies. Don't yell about low prices next fall if you go and make a record breaking crop. Observe wise diversification in planting your crops. You have the solution of the problem in your hands now. You will not have it in hand next fall."

Cotton and Finance, published in New York, in a leading editorial on the subject of cotton and the cotton market, in the issue of March 1, has the following to say: "On the other hand, nearly all reports agree that the South is planting an exceptionally large acreage; that the season is an early one and that in most sections the winter rainfall has been sufficient."

"The apprehension that the thoughtful men of the South feel over this tendency to increase acreage, is attested by the appeal to the Southern farmer made by E. J. Watson, commissioner of agriculture of South Carolina, and published on another page of this issue."

"The position of the spinner was aptly stated by a cotton manufacturer with whom we were conversing recently. He said, 'I am going into the next crop with the smallest reserve supply I have ever carried.' Asked if he did not consider this dangerous, he answered: 'If you were very hungry and could buy for \$1 a meal that you could get 15 minutes later for 50 cents, would you not consider yourself lacking in self-control if you didn't wait?' This colloquy seems to fit the present situation exactly."

This same publication in giving space to the address issued to you in February, accompanies it with an editorial note saying: "During the last ten days, the editor has traveled extensively through North and South Carolina. We can testify to the timeliness to Mr. Watson's words. Never before has the tendency to increase the acreage of cotton at the expense of the other crops been as pronounced as at present."

I have already pointed out the reasons why the slightest increase in acreage will spell disaster so far as the price is concerned for cotton the coming season. A few weeks more and it will be too late for the warning to be heeded. I, therefore, again most earnestly appeal to every man who expects to plant an acre of cotton to let reason control him. If he does not, a month hence it will be too late to cure the damage that has been done and it will be useless this fall to appeal to anybody to stop the downward trend of prices.

I have issued this second note of warning in order that it may reach the man who might otherwise commit financial suicide in time to stay his hand. In doing so, I wish to quote a brief letter I have today received from the most eminent authority in this country on cotton, a man who wants to see justice done to the cotton producer. He writes me from Washington under the date of February 28. "I have just returned from Florida and find your circular letter. I want to compliment you on it. You are giving your people wise advice, and if they only have the good sense to listen to it, it will be tremendously to their advantage. If, however, they are the fools that the cotton brokers take them to be, they will get what

they deserve, and that will be very low prices for their product."

E. J. Watson, President Southern Cotton Congress.

Master's Sale.

Only one Master's sale was made Monday. In the case of Arabella P. Moses against Conyers Singleton, lot near city on Green Swamp Road, purchased by L. E. Wood, Attorney, for \$50.

JAIL BIRD BACK IN CAGE.

Escape of Calhoun Prisoner of No Avail—Quickly Caught.

St. Matthews, March 4.—Another jail delivery took place here last night, but only one prisoner—Richard Williams, colored—escaped. Sheriff Hill soon got on his trail and bagged him about eight miles from town. He had just been tried by Magistrate Prickett for violating an agricultural con-

tract and sentenced to the gang for three months on several counts. With a stove fixture he broke open his cell and the big lock to the front door. The "caboose," of recent construction, is not as safe for county prisoners as was first thought and the new jail will be welcomed.

The Confederate Pension Board met in the Auditor's office Monday morning to pass on a number of applications for pensions.

SPARTANBURG MAN IN TOILS.

W. G. Wilson Charged with Obtaining Money Under False Pretences.

Spartanburg, March 4.—W. G. Wilson, a well known young man, of Spartanburg, has been committed to the county jail on a charge of obtaining money by false pretence. He is alleged to have taken subscriptions for magazines, but to have failed to turn in the money to the companies

he said he represented. The publishers of several magazines published in the North have employed J. C. Otts, Esq., formerly solicitor of this circuit, to prosecute Wilson. The young man is represented by former Governor John Gary Evans.

Marriage License Record.

Mr. John T. Shoaf of Sumter and Miss Bertie S. Banse of Asheville received a marriage license from the county clerk Tuesday.

The Wreck Store

Announces the Opening of the Great Coupon Sale

COMMENCING SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 8th.

A \$100 Victor Victrola Talking Machine,

IMPORTED FRENCH PORCELAIN CLOCKS, IMPORTED CHINA CLOCKS, CUT GLASS, Will be Given Away absolutely Free at This Great Sale.

Commencing Saturday morning we are going to give away coupons with every 10 cent purchase. For full particulars as to how you can get this valuable Victor Victrola, ask for our Coupons which we will give away with every 10 cent purchase.

But to make sure that there will absolutely be no disappointments, we will give away FREE Hundreds of Porcelain Clocks, China Clocks, Cut Glass, Etc. to each and every person bringing in Coupons amounting to \$5.00 or over. It makes no difference whether you bring your Coupons in May or December to be redeemed, we will give you a valuable premium Free, according to the amount of your coupons; but in addition we are going to give away the \$100.00 Victor Victrola Talking Machine, including 12 records. For full particulars ask for our coupons given with every 10 cent purchase.

In addition to the above liberal offer we take great pleasure in announcing to the public that our buyer has recently returned from the Northern markets and has bought an enormous quantity of Manufacturers' Over Productions which will be put on sale starting Saturday Morning, March 8th, 1913.

1,400 Pairs of Mens' and Ladies Fine Shoes and Oxfords. These shoes are in all styles and sizes and in all the wanted leathers and retail from \$3.50 to \$6.00 per pair. They include such well known brands as Edwin Clapp, Nettleton, Walk-Over, Kink Quality, All America, Bilrite, Etc. We will sell the entire lot at "The Wreck Store," Price.....

\$1.98

800 PAIRS OF MEN'S OXFORDS.
In Tan, Colt Skin, Gun Metal, etc., worth from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per pair. Our Price

\$2.49

CHILDREN'S BUCK SKIN SHOES.
Worth \$3.00 per pair. Our Price at this Great Coupon Sale

\$1.69

A large lot of Children's Oxfords, worth up to \$1.00 our price

39c

MEN'S SUITS.

100 men's suits in all wool and worsteds, worth up to \$18.00. Our price this Great Coupon Sale

\$5.98

500 PAIRS OF LADIES' BUCKSKIN SHOES AND OXFORDS

And Pumps, worth up to \$5.00 per pair. Our price at this Great Coupon Sale

\$2.49

1,600 PRS. OF MEN'S AND LADIES' OXFORDS
Worth up to \$3.50 per pair. Our Price

98c

CHILDREN'S CANVAS OXFORDS
Worth \$1.50. Our Price at this Great Coupon Sale

79c

A LARGE LOT
Of Children's Oxfords worth up to \$1.50—Our Price

49c

LADIES' SKIRTS

In all Colors, all styles and sizes. These Skirts are worth up to \$8.00. Our Price at this Great Coupon Sale

\$1.98 to \$3.49

A LARGE LOT

Ladies' White Tub Skirts, worth \$1.50. Our Price at this Great Coupon Sale

89c

SPECIAL

We have just received 1,500 Ladies' Knox Braid Sailor Hats in black, white, blue, red, tan, etc. These hats sell for \$1.00 at all millinery Stores. Our Price at this Great Coupon Sale.....

39 cts.

A large lot of Princess Dresses in black, blue and white. These dresses are worth up to \$8.00. Our Price at this Great Coupon Sale

88 to \$3.98

A large lot of Ladies' white shirt waists, worth \$1.00. Our Price at this great sale

49c

A large lot of Ladies' silk shirt waists worth \$3.00. Our Price

\$1.69

EXTRA SPECIAL.

A large lot of Huck Towels and Napkins. Towels are worth up to 30c apiece and the napkins are worth 15c. Our price for the towels 6c to 12c and 5c a piece for the napkins.

98c

A large lot of Ladies' Lingerie Night Gowns and skirts worth up to \$3.00. Our Price at this Great Coupon Sale

We also have an enormous quantity of merchandise for which we have no room to specify in this advertisement, but we can assure you that it will be to your advantage to trade with us, as in our short time in Sumter we have gained the enviable reputation as the CUT PRICE KINGS of Sumter, because "what it takes to sell good goods cheap we've got it."

Don't fail to visit us during the Great Coupon Sale, as it will enable you to save money as well as receiving valuable presents. Ask for Coupons which will explain full particulars about the Victor Victrola Talking Machine which we are going to give away Absolutely FREE. Remember the Coupons are valuable for presents.

The Great Coupon Sale Starts SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 8th, 1913.

The Consolidated Merc. Co.

"The WRECK STORE"

Croswell's New Block.

SUMTER, S. C.

Just Below the P. O.

P. S. Eventually You Will Trade With Us, Why Not Now.