

**LONG STAPLE COTTON.**

**MR. R. D. COOKER ADVOCATES GROWING IT IN QUANTITY.**

**Sets Forth in an Interesting Letter the Demand for the Long Staple and Reasons for Growing It.**

Editor Hartsville Messenger, Hartsville, S. C. Dear Sir:

The recent depression in the price of long staple cotton has seemed to upset many of our farmers very much and I judge, from the frequent requests for advice as to planting staple varieties this year, that many are considering seriously the question of dividing their acreage between short and long cotton this season.

Before deciding this question I think it would be well for the farmers to review the record of the new staple cottons in this section for the past few years. (By the new staple cottons I mean the Hartsville, the Webber and the Goodson-Keenan varieties.)

These varieties have been planted in increasing quantities in and around Hartsville for the past three or four years. Before 1912 practically without exception, those raising these varieties made greater yields of lint cotton per acre than with the short varieties they tested against them. In my own experiments here they considerably out-yielded the large number of short staple cottons tested against them, while the old varieties, Floradora and Allen, yielded very much less than short cottons.

In 1912, owing to the extremely dry weather in August the late cottons were somewhat at a disadvantage and consequently the new staple varieties were slightly less around Hartsville than the extra early short cotton. I am advised, however, by parties in the lower part of this country where they had some rains during August, and also by friends in Marlboro county that they made fully as much with these cottons in 1912 as with short cottons.

In my own variety test of thirty-seven varieties, in 1912, Hartsville No. 7 made a little more than the average of the short cottons tested, and Webber and Keenan made slightly less than the average.

It seems, therefore, that the average experiences of the many who have tested these cottons in this section for several years proves that they can be counted on to average greater yields per acre than short varieties. My own opinion on this subject is positive and is based on experiments which I know to have been conducted with absolute accuracy and fairness.

The above seems to dispose of the question of comparative yield and only leaves for consideration the question of comparative market price.

Up to this year the new varieties of staple cotton, (Hartsville, Webber and Keenan-Goodson), have only been sent out of our own State in very small quantities—the bulk of the crop previous to 1912 being used by South Carolina mills. My own firm has, previous to the past fall, made very little effort to establish a staple business in New England or on the other side of the Atlantic. Realizing the necessity of broadening our market, however, we have during the past cotton season, made strong efforts to place our staple in Old England and the New England States and have met with considerable success in interesting mills in the cotton. Naturally the mills have not wished to buy large quantities until they were able to test its general character and spinning quality, but I am proud to say that we have, not only had no complaints from our 1912 shipments but have received much praise for the quality of our cotton. I have no reason to anticipate, therefore, that we will not be able to place very much larger quantities of cotton next season in New England and Old England than formerly, and I see no reason why farmers should be fearful about placing the entire staple crop of this section next season.

Staple buyers from the West and Europe are becoming interested in our new cottons and many of them already recognize their merit. A number of these buyers operated in this territory last season and I have reason to believe that many more will buy here next season. Our new staple industry is just getting upon its feet. The world is just learning that we are growing a most excellent staple cotton in eastern Carolina. The work of introducing our cotton which has cost so much time, labor thought and money has about been accomplished. The farmers in this section should enjoy the full fruits of this long and arduous campaign. Are we going to quit just when we have made a success? Are we going to let the present depression in staple cotton (which seems to be caused by the uncertainty

over the tariff situation) keep us from reaping profits which have been practically assured? Is not 3, 2 or even 1 cent per pound extra profit inducement enough to keep up this industry. One cent per pound on the average cotton crop of Darlington county means nearly one quarter of a million dollars per year.

My own view is that we should abandon short cotton entirely in this section. I cannot conceive of a situation arising which would cause good long staple cotton to bring less than short staple and I do not expect good long staple to bring less than 2 or 3 cents per pound premium next season. But you must be sure to have good cotton, raised from pure pedigreed seed. Lots of the staple seed in the county are becoming badly mixed and cotton from such seed may be very difficult of sale and bring very low prices. Besides, seed of the old, small balled, non-productive staple varieties offered under various names. These cottons were formerly grown in this section in small quantities and no mill man that I have ever talked to who has used any of them wants to see another bale. It was the bad reputation of these old staple cottons which made it so hard to convince the spinners that our new staple had any merit.

Our ginners are rapidly learning how to handle staple cotton and many of them have their plants adjusted to run the long rather than the short product. Where both long and short are planted in close proximity they will almost surely become mixed either by crossing in the field or by mixture of seed at the gins. The whole problem of seed selection and ginning is rendered immensely more difficult by the planting of several kinds of cotton.

Instead of turning back to short cotton the farmer should, I think, turn their attention to seed selection, to good handling, baling and ginning, and should bend their energies to sustaining and increasing the reputation we have already made for our staple cotton. If they insist on planting both long and short cotton together, or in reintroducing the old discredited sorts; if they fail to pay attention to keeping up the character and quality of our excellent staple varieties; if they allow short cotton to become mixed with their staple at the gins or put up in rough and ragged bales; we will simply lose what we have gained and a promising and profitable industry will be destroyed.

There has never been a day since I have been in business in Hartsville when a bale of good honest cotton, whether long or short, could not be sold here at its approximate value. There has never been a day when good staple cotton would not bring a premium over short cotton, and while I make no promise as to the future, I see no excuse for believing that such a day will ever come. I do believe, however, that the staple premiums prevailing next year will be much lower than those prevailing for the last two years.

To those farmers who insist on planting short any way I recommend "Pride of Georgia," "Cleveland Big Boll," "Jones Big Boll," and the cotton called the "Five Lock" and formerly planted extensively around Ashland. While my tests show that they are less productive on an average than Hartsville No. 7, Webber or Keenan-Goodson, they are among the best short cotton I have tested and possess the big advantage of being easy to pick. They will all make high grade lint of good character and are much more quickly gathered than small balled cottons.

Hoping that the farmers, merchants, professional men and newspapers in this section will co-operate in maintaining the new staple industry which has already added to profits of our farmers, and that you, Mr. Editor, will give publicity to this letter, I am, yours truly,

David R. Coker.

**TO PRESS COTTON OIL CASE.**

**Special Assistant Named to Help Akerman in Case Involving Many Witnesses.**

Augusta, Ga., April 8.—George H. Richter of Washington has been appointed to assist District Attorney Alexander Akerman in specially assigned duties in the hearing before the federal grand jury at Augusta of the trust charges against the American Cotton Oil Company.

District Attorney Akerman will conduct the active prosecution of the case and at his request, Mr. Richter has been appointed by Attorney General McReynolds as an assistant.

The examination by the district attorney of the 142 witnesses, who will appear before the grand jury beginning tomorrow necessitates an additional assistant in what Mr. Akerman says is the most important action ever brought in the Southern States.

**You Want Good Shoes.**

And we have them; why not let us fit you. The line of new slippers is very complete just now. Try them please. Schwartz Bros.—Adv't.

**DINGLE'S MILL BATTLE SITE IS MARKED**

**Appropriate Ceremonies Mark Unveiling of Tablet on Forty-Eighth Anniversary**

**MEMORIAL TO HONOR CONFEDERATE DEAD**

**Eloquent Address Eulogizing Heroes of the Battle Made By Prof. S. H. Edmunds—Unveiling Done By Misses Alliene Harby, Cornelia Brower, Eva Michaux, Marie Lee Covington and Pauline Loring Lee—Circumstances Which Made Occasion Possible.**

Under the shade of towering gum trees, many of whose tops had been cut off by cannon balls, a crowd of several hundred persons gathered Wednesday afternoon on the recently built up causeway across the Turkey Creek swamp at Dingle's Mill to pay honor to the men of the South who, at duty's call, had responded in defense of their homes and with appropriate ceremonies to unveil a tablet marking the site of the battle of Dingle's Mill. The oration of the occasion was delivered by Prof. S. H. Edmunds of this city, who in eloquent and fitting words eulogized the men who had lost their lives in the battle and paid honor to those who had taken part, but whose lives had been spared to their country.

The occasion was the forty-eighth anniversary of the battle of Dingle's Mill and had been brought about by the persistent efforts of the members of Dick Anderson Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, to erect a fitting memorial tablet at this place to mark the site of the battle and to commemorate the heroism of those who had lost their lives here in defense of their country. Their persistence had been rewarded for recently the county commissioners took up the matter and under the supervision of Prof. M. Goode Homes of the University of South Carolina, a concrete and steel bridge was built over the stream and it is in one of the posts of this bridge that the tablet has been placed.

The bridge is built for permanency and will probably last for hundreds of years. Supervisor Pitts has added to the appearance of the place and the convenience of the public by raising and widening the old causeway across the swamp, so that it will be in keeping with the magnificent bridge which has been constructed.

The exercises were not long, but they were very impressive. Mr. Perry Moses, commandant of Dick Anderson Camp, U. C. V., presided.

The exercises were commenced by a selection from the Sumter Band, which was followed by a short, but beautiful prayer by the Rev. J. B. Wilson. Another selection was rendered by the band and it was while the band was playing this selection that the tablet was unveiled. The girls who performed this part of the ceremony were: Miss Alliene Harby, a niece of Mr. A. J. Moses, one of those who took part in the battle; Miss Cornelia Brower, a granddaughter of Col. J. D. Graham, another participant in the battle; Miss Marie Lee Covington, and Pauline Loring Lee, great granddaughters of Col. G. W. Lee, who commanded the Confederate forces in the attack made upon the enemy at this point; and Miss Eva Michaux, a granddaughter of Mr. M. J. Michaux, one who took part in the battle.

When the drapery was drawn back by these little girls the marble tablet was revealed. The inscriptions read: "This tablet marks the site of the Battle of Dingle's Mill, fought April 9th, 1865, between Potter's Brigade and the Reserve South Carolina Militia, C. S. A. Erected by Dick Anderson Chapter, U. C. V."

Following the music, Mr. Perry Moses introduced the orator of the occasion, Prof. S. H. Edmunds then made his address which was short and to the point. He spoke of the circumstances which had caused the battle and of the battle itself. In eloquent words he paid honor to those who had taken part in the battle, those who were left, as well as those who had fallen.

The address was as follows: We stand upon hallowed ground, hallowed, because baptized with our brother's blood. It was here that the gallant McQueen fell; here that Pamparey from Louisiana, in Sumter on a sick furlough, brave almost to boldness, shed his life's blood, while cheering his comrades on; here fell also Thomson, Long, Reeder, and Harbin. Why? What occasion demanded that these men brave and true should die? Because they heard the call to duty, they heard the voice of love summoning them to the defense of their homes and firesides, and they were not disobedient to the call. On the 7th of April, 1865, order No. 2 was issued from the headquar-

ters of the 20th Regiment S. C. M., at Sumter, which read as follows: "The regiment will assemble at this place immediately with three days' cooked rations to repel a threatened raid of the enemy. The men are earnestly requested to mount themselves if possible and arms will be furnished them here."

By order of Col G. W. Lee. T. B. Fraser, Adj't. To quote from Col. Lee's official report: "In the evening of April 8th the enemy entered the town of Manning and during the night repaired and crossed over the bridges on Peotailgo at Manning which had been destroyed by the Clarendon Militia under Col. Connors. On the 9th they advanced rapidly on the town of Sumter by the way leading by Dingle's Mill. Our forces were as follows: Col Pressley's command... 100 Lt. Caldwell's command... 120 Lt. Col. Brown's command... 60 Capt. Colclough's command... 100 Lt. Pamparey's command... 15 Lt. McQueen's command... 15 Sergt. Durban's command... 15 Lt. McGregor's command... 30 44 Regt. Col Connors... 40 20 Regt. Col Lee... 80 Total... 575"

Col. Caldwell coming up later and being the senior officer, assumed command. The force of the enemy consisted of two regiments of white and three of negro troops, with two pieces of artillery and some cavalry, numbering in all about twenty-five hundred men.

"At three o'clock P. M. the enemy's whole force presented itself at Dingle's Mill and a sharp action commenced, which continued until nearly six o'clock p. m. A flanking party of some four or five hundred men made their way across the swamp, about three hundred yards on the right of the mill and were met by about fifty or 60 men under my command composed mostly of the militia of my regiment. They resisted the enemy until overpowered by superior numbers and then fell back to their original position at the mill. The artillery and infantry supports finding the position had been turned, had retired and my small command was nearly cut off and captured; but the same coolness which they had displayed in meeting the enemy, saved them from being made prisoners."

I take pleasure in being able to say that on the judgment of veteran officers, the conduct of all the troops at the mill was as good as could be expected of any troops, and the militia especially fought with the determination of men who fight for their homes and families. The loss of our position at Dingle's Mill compelled us to evacuate the town of Sumter, and the enemy took possession immediately.

The loss of the enemy, according to our best information, was 13 killed and 26 wounded. The railroad depots at Sumter, the jail, and a few out-buildings were burned by the enemy. The damage to private property, except in a few cases, was less than was expected."

This reads an extract from Col. Lee's official report and this, with official order No. 2, explains our presence here today and shows why these heroes obedient to duty's clarion call, felt impelled to lay down their lives for their homes and loved ones.

Amidst the ruins of falling Troy Aeneas was inspired by the thought that it is sweet to die for one's country. It was this thought that impelled the 300 Spartans at Thermopylae to stand their ground with Leonidas against unnumbered hosts—love and obedience.

One, who asks why these heroes gave up their lives, will find his answer in the couplet: "Go, stranger and in Lacedaemon tell That here obedient to her laws we fell."

It was this motive of obedience to authority and love of home that induced the 500 to stand at this narrow pass, dauntless and unafraid, though they knew they were outnumbered and had reason to expect by their resistance only death. Times change and men change with them, but love,

loyalty, and disinterested devotion are immortal.

It is altogether fitting that the daughters of the Confederacy should place this tablet in commemoration of the cause they love, of the heroes who gladly gave here their lives, and of the virtues that their loyal self-sacrifice manifests.

Lieut. McQueen, who offered here his life in love, was a son of the Rev. Dr. McQueen and a brother officer of Lieut. Pringle's in Garden's Battery, a Battery composed of some of Sumter's choicest young men. Lieut. Pringle was killed at Sharpsburg in 1862. A tribute to him was written by Lieut. McQueen and was published in the Tri-Weekly Watchman, January 5th, 1863. This tribute was courteously given me by Judge Thos. E. Richardson and, in compliance with the request of some veterans, I shall read it as the best epitaph of these young heroes and as a mournful prophecy of the death that was so soon to overtake the gallant author: Upon Virginia's hallowed sod, Ah, deeply dyed by patriot blood, Behold a soldier's tomb. He fell where rolled like lava stream, The tide of battle 'mid the gleam Of cannon as they boom. He fell full nobly at his post, Upon his lips no prouder boast, Than "duty calls me here;" He died—alas! no mother's hand Was there to soothe his ebbing sand, But Friendship dropped a tear. An Angel form with softest tread, Gently bending o'er his bed Gazed sweetly in his eye. This angel then with mother's breast, Did soothe the dying boy to rest, And heaved a whispered sigh, Then looking up, she gazed on high, Upon the star bespangled sky, And breathed a fervent prayer; "O! God" she cried, "Shall one so brave,

Be given to the cheerless grave— When thou canst pitying spare? Let Autumn's withered leaflets fall, The old may claim the shrouded pall, And joyous greet the tomb; But spare, oh! spare the tender flower, That springs up with the summer shower, And spreads its fragrant bloom. Mysterious are the ways most High, The old, the young, the good must die And mingle with the clay, But we can only drop a tear Of sorrow on the mournful bier, And tread our lonely way. There is no place in memory's cell Where friendship more delights to dwell, Than on departed years; When we in innocence were wont To drink of life's pure crystal font, Undimmed by scalding tears. Bright hopes alas! have swiftly fled, As one by one the charnel dead, Rise upward to our view, Like tones of sweetest music gone, As clouds before the noon day sun, Or morning's pearly dew. To you, veterans, assembled here, who carry in your minds and hearts tenderest memories of your comrades, I would say in Milton's words: "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war." I rejoice with you that God in his infinite mercy hath showered upon you the blessings of peace, as He shielded you from the dangers of war. By your patriotic devotion to home and country, you won distinction in war and by a living loyalty to life's duties you have merited the plaudits of peace. It is

the earnest prayer of all present that for your future each day be richer in its rewards.

At the close of his address music was again rendered by the band and the exercises were over. Many crowded around to read the inscription and see the tablet after which the assembly slowly dispersed, having in mind the brave deeds of their fathers and grandfathers when duty called them to a defense of their homes.

An interesting feature of the occasion was the presence at the unveiling of a number of those who took part in the battle of Dingle's Mill, men who are now old and feeble, whose heads are covered with gray but who then were in their boyhood, or just entering upon the vigor of manhood. Among these were Messrs. S. F. Flowers, Moultrie Reid, J. K. Newman, R. J. Davis, Howard Jones, M. J. Michaux, T. F. Cole, D. R. McCallum and D. James Winn. Besides there were a large number of other veterans who in Virginia or on other fields were fighting at that time in defense of the South.

The signs of the battle are still plainly visible, when one is told that many of the old gum trees which stand all along on each side of the causeway have no tops, or are forked high above the ground, because of the fact that their tops were cut off with cannon balls in this battle.

The ride out to Dingle's Mill bridge was found a pleasant one by those who attended the exercises. The road was found in excellent condition and the weather beautiful for being out-of-doors. The trip was made in buggies, carriages and automobiles, the veterans being taken out by the people of the city in automobiles, so that there would be no hardship on them in making the short trip of three and a-half miles.

The improvements which have been recently made on the causeway created favorable comment from those who had not passed that way recently and the bridge was examined by a number of those present, it being the first opportunity which they had had to do this since its completion. The bridge is built over the Turkey Creek stream and has a span of twenty-four feet. It is built upon piles for a foundation and has vertical supports instead of the usual arched supports. It is supported across by six big steel beams which are strongly reinforced by concrete. The sides are several feet thick and the bridge presents an appearance of solidity and permanency. It is a great improvement over the old wooden bridge and many of those who have to use this much used road are very thankful that it has been built. The sides of the bridge are also supported by steel uprights and arches, it being in the central part of the bridge that the tablet is placed.

The bridge was ordered built by the county board of commissioners and is probably the best in the county. It was planned and the work supervised by Prof. M. G. Homes of the University of South Carolina, the cost being about \$1,500. In building the bridge it was found convenient to move it from its original position to a point in the causeway opposite the stream, which formerly ran along the dam for more than a hundred feet and then turned in under the bridge. In doing this the workmen found it necessary to open up a canal down below the causeway for several hundred feet.

**VOTING COUPON.**

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