

Seven Keys TO Baldpate

By EARL DERR BIGGERS

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His eyes were fiercely on the table and the two decks of cards that lay there. "And when you've finished," he pointed. "When you've finished!"

Mr. Cargan picked up the deck on the left.

"All black," he said, "when the game comes out right."

"And the other?" Kendrick persisted softly. He pointed to the remaining deck. A terrible smile of understand-



"Red. What else could it be? All red." Kendrick drew his thin lips taut. "And the other, Mr. Cargan?"

"Red," replied Cargan. "What else could it be? All red."

He picked it up and shuffled through it to prove his point. Kendrick turned like a drunken man and staggered back down the aisle. Magee rose and hurried after him. At the door he turned, and the look on his face caused Magee to shudder.

(To be Continued.)

TEXAS COTTON LEGISLATION.

State Senate Agrees to Substitute Warehouse Bill.

Austin, Texas, Sept. 5.—Legislation intended to facilitate the marketing of the present cotton crop in Texas was advanced toward enactment today, when the State senate agreed to substitute the emergency warehouse bill already passed by the house for measures pending in the upper branch of the assembly. Adjournment was taken before the bill was called for its third reading and passage.

As adopted by the house the bill provides for State supervision of private owned warehouses, making receipts more readily negotiable and an amendment added by the senate fixes the maximum amount of interest to be charged on money advanced on warehouse receipts to 10 per cent.

AMERICA FREE TO LEGISLATE.

Bar Harbor, Maine, Sept. 4.—Declaring that President Wilson and the Democratic congress had kept all platform promises, Secretary of the Navy Daniels in a campaign speech here tonight added that the president had set America free to legislate without fear.

"Greater than the tariff law itself, greater than the currency itself, greater than all the needed constructive legislation of the record making administration," said Mr. Daniels, "looms up this fact: That the people may legislate without any longer fearing that our business is going to be checked or our prosperity destroyed. The right to enact such laws as they conceive is best for them at last has been restored to them."

"Under Wilson, the ideals of Jefferson's first inaugural have been realized. Business no longer struggles government; privilege no longer holds it up on the highway and rifles its pockets."

Levi and Bryan in Finals.

All of the players in the tennis tourney have been eliminated except Levi and Bryan, who will play off their final match for the championship next week on the Y. M. C. A. court. The defeat of Moses by Levi on Friday afternoon having left the latter in to play for the championship.

The match between Moses and Levi on Friday was well played, but both were too cautious in their strokes to put up a good exhibition of tennis. Levi won in straight sets, 7-5; 6-2; 6-4.

The consolation matches are being played off now, and will probably be completed next week.

Marriage License Record.

A license to marry was granted this morning to Mr. Jessie Smith of Shiloh and Miss Nealie Logan of Columbia.

With the arrival of the athletic instructor at the Y. M. C. A. and the coming of fall, basket ball has been taken up at the Y. M. C. A. again and teams are practicing every night.

Phone 404, or write the Citizens Insurance Agency for cotton or any other kind of insurance—all American companies.—Adv't.

FARMERS' UNION NEWS

Practical Thoughts for Practical Farmers.

(Conducted by E. W. Dabbs, President S. C. Farmers Union.)

Some Random Thoughts.

The county union is to meet at Sumter court house next Saturday in special session to hear reports from school district canvassers and from the national union. I regret that I will not be able to be present on account of being appointed to go to Washington as the advance guard of a big national committee to press upon congress the need of immediate aid from the government.

I accepted this mission in the hope that I may yet secure such governmental control of acreage as will be fair to everybody that is in the cotton growing business, and as will also protect the government in its purchase of cotton, or advance upon cotton. I do not mean that we should not do all we can to secure pledges to reduce acreage. We can not afford to let up on this, but I wish to see these pledges made effective by law.

The best thing I have seen since I left home is the move that is well under way in Georgia to have every one who can do so purchase a bale or more, according to his or her resources at 10c per pound from farmers who are so situated that they must sell. And to hold this cotton off the market for one year. This can be made to take 4 million bales, and will be a strong argument for securing from the government the purchase of 4 million bales more or the advance of 40 or 45 dollars per bale on that much direct to the farmers.

We ought then not have any trouble to sell for 10 cents and maybe 12 1-2 cents the remaining 6 or 7 million bales of this crop. If we could secure legislation that would cut out the crop entirely next year I believe we could sell right away half this crop at 14 cents, and next year we could sell the balance at 16 to 20 cents. But if we can not secure such drastic legislation we should strive to reduce the acreage to 15 million acres in the entire country that not more than 5 million bales be added to this crop for the two years' supply. This would mean that the government would be absolutely safe at 10c per pound.

Unless something that will be effective to really reduce acreage is done I think getting the government to lend money on cotton, or to buy cotton is not an "irrescible dream."

Among the matters we have under consideration, mutual insurance of the cotton we will hold under either the direct purchase plan or under any loan system, is a most important one. If we today were carrying our own insurance or if we had the money in South Carolina that we have invested for us outside the State to make good our losses from fire and death, we could retire so many bales of our cotton that it would be no trouble to handle the balance.

I trust our next meeting will take this matter up in earnest. I am writing to ask Commissioner McMaster to meet with the county union next Saturday and discuss this matter with our people. Maybe sometime our people will see the importance of doing something. I have letters from the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of York County and am writing that they send a man to our meeting next Saturday. Proper insurance is a vital part of any loan system or any purchase and holding system. And should be secured at the lowest possible safe rate.

One of my canvassers for holding cotton and reducing acreage found the small farmers toward Pudding Swamp resolved not to sell, and their tobacco has enabled them to be independent about selling. Hope all the districts in the county will be able to report at the Saturday meeting.

The Meeting of the National Union.

For three days the union was in session at Fort Worth, Texas. The delegates came from every State south of the Potomac and Ohio rivers and west of the Mississippi, including Illinois. There being so many from States that do not grow cotton, and therefore cannot appreciate our conditions, it was not unexpected that many things would be discussed beside cotton and its sale.

The union stood for United States treasury aid in this emergency and sent a big committee to Washington to secure assistance from congress. It rejected by overwhelming majorities every proposition which I made to secure legislative control of next year's

acreage. We farmers are prone to cry out against lawyers for saying "unconstitutional" about measures we may propose but I find farmers are just as loud in their call on the constitution as anybody when they think it would trench on some of their supposed rights.

They finally agreed to call on all the farmers, merchants, and bankers to work for a reduction of cotton acreage, but I fear it was not as hearty as it should have been, and that there were some mutual reservation. It seems hard to make some people see that the powers of the government are limited in money matters, but they are quick to say that the powers of government are limited when it comes to restraining them from doing as they please.

They are constantly harping on the privileges of the national banks, in fact all banks, but they never think in saying anything about how those banks are regulated by law and inspected to see that they comply with the law. The farmer wants all the privileges of the bank, but immediately resents any legislative regulation of his business or government inspection to see that he complies with the requirements of safe farming.

It is because I believe that governmental aid carries with it governmental regulation and inspection that I accepted the appointment to go to Washington on Thursday as a member of the National Union's committee to secure the former. We are face to face with such disaster that no power short of the national government can give us adequate aid, but we must not demand that aid unless we are willing to so regulate our yield as to make it safe for the government to assist us.

From all that I heard and read in the papers of the west, (I have not seen a home paper in ten days,) I think that we should have national legislative action for uniform and equitable reduction of acreage. Unless it is done in that way governmental aid will greatly embarrass the administration, and will lose to the Democratic party some districts in the North. Besides that will be the only way to compel Texas and some of the other States "to be fair" with us. It is all very well to secure the pledges we can but we should not let up on the idea that we should have legislation to prevent the men who will not join with us from nullifying our pledges.

I could not begin to give an idea of the scope of the discussions of farm and governmental policies, for whenever there was no discussion of cotton on the floor of the convention, I was engaged in wrestling with the committees on legislation and the price of cotton. I met some fine men, men of broad views, and open minds, and some that were narrow and extreme.

MERCHANT FLEET BILL.

Carries Amendments by Naval Committee and Agreed to by Wilson.

Washington, Sept. 5.—The administration bill providing for the creation of \$10,000,000 corporation controlled by government to purchase merchant steamers for the relief of American commerce halted by the European war was reported to the house today, carrying amendments proposed by the naval committee and agreed to by the president. These would make the company's fleet available for naval auxiliary use, and also provide that present naval auxiliaries be employed by the company if needed.

Chairman Alexander, of the merchant marine committee, who reported the bill, said he did not know when it would be called up for consideration.

MEXICANS CONSIDER ELECTION.

Washington, Sept. 5.—Administration officials expressed satisfaction today over reports from Mexico City that a general convention of governors, military chiefs and delegates had been called for October 1 to arrange a programme for a constitutional election.

The only dark spot on the Mexican horizon is the attitude of Gen. Zapata. Official reports say he refuses to meet Carranza unless the latter goes south to Zapata territory. Zapata also said he would insist on the plan of Ayutla, to the effect that he should become Provisional President, but was willing to share the executive power equally with Carranza. The latter has declared the proposal absurd.

Efforts of the American government to bring Zapata and Carranza into harmony continue, but the outlook is said to be discouraging.

Officials here are confident, however, that if the Carranza and Villa factions agree and maintain a strong central government, the Zapata problem will be disposed of without difficulty, as there would be thousands of Constitutional troops available for an expedition to the south.

PRESIDENT SIGNS NAVIGATION ORDER.

Final Step Taken in Opening American Registry to Foreign Ships.

Washington, Sept. 4.—The final step in opening American registry to foreign-built merchant craft was taken at the White House tonight when President Wilson signed an executive order suspending from operation sections of the navigation laws, as authorized by the new registry bill. These require American watch officers on American ships and that inspection and measurement for registry shall be made by officials.

Force Jap Ships to Retire.

Tien Tsing, Sept. 7.—The German forts at Tsing Tao opened a heavy fire upon the Japanese warships in the harbor today, forcing them to withdraw.



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