

FARMERS SHOULD ORGANIZE.

OFFERED OPPORTUNITY OF BETTER PRICES FOR COTTON BY CO-OPERATION WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Secretary Reardon Calls Attention to Lack of Interest and Cooperation of Farmers of County in Efforts for Their Betterment—Cotton Grader Should be Secured.

Referring to the suggestion in the Sumter Daily Item of last Saturday that Sumter county should have a cotton selling association, and an expert government cotton grader such as are being used by S. Matthews and Orangeburg, S. C. Reardon said today that this matter has been agitated among the farmers by the members of the Sumter County Farmers Union, and by a number of Sumter's business men. He accepted the Daily Item's suggestion about getting Congressman Lever to assist and immediately wrote Mr. Lever asking his assistance.

The matter has been taken up with Congressman A. F. Lever, president J. Frank Williams, of the Sumter County Farmers Union, Mr. E. W. Dabbs, of the Sumter County Farmers Union, and ex-president of the State Farmers Union, and leading supporter of organization among the farmers for intelligent and business-like marketing of cotton, and if the farmers desire any kind of an association to help them to get the highest possible prices for cotton the Sumter banks and Sumter Chamber of Commerce are ready now, as they have always been to help out the farmers of Sumter, Lee, Cherokee, Kershaw, Calhoun and other counties within Sumter's trade territory. The Sumter Chamber of Commerce is now trying to organize the farmers for cooperative cotton marketing and for marketing other products. So are officers of the Sumter County Farmers Union.

"One of the greatest difficulties we have to contend with," said Secretary Reardon, "is the great indifference and lack of organization among the overwhelming majority of cotton producers and farmers generally. The farmer doesn't appear to take any great interest in organizing or working for their own interests, or in cooperating with organized efforts in their behalf."

One of the reasons for this is that the cotton grader has not been secured. The Sumter Chamber of Commerce, the Sumter County Farmers Union, and the secretary visited hundreds of farmers to try to interest them in going into the cream routes. We called two cream route meetings in Sumter and about three farmers attended these meetings.

Local banks of Sumter offered to lend money for buying dairy cows, Harby & Co. offered \$500 without interest, S. L. Krasneck offered \$100 without interest, and on top of those two generous offers the Sumter Chamber of Commerce had the guarantee of the Sumter banks that as much as \$5,000 would be loaned to farmers at reasonable rates of interest with which to buy dairy cows. But one application was made for any of this money.

The Sumter Chamber of Commerce offered a bonus of \$10 a month to help pay the butter fat collector on the first cream route. Yet with all that has been done we haven't been able to interest enough farmers to start even a partial cream route in this county.

You may call meeting after meeting of Sumter county farmers, and we have called many meetings, and had government diversification, cream route and creamery, fertilizer and live stock experts here to talk to the farmers, and the large majority of farmers showed that they weren't interested by their lack of attendance at these meetings.

Right after the European war started about six big county meetings were held under Chamber of Commerce auspices to organize cotton holding associations, and to organize for diversification of crops.

Those six meetings had big crowds of farmers when the conditions looked serious. But as soon as cotton got back to ten cents a pound or more, and the money market eased up the farmers became indifferent about organization or associated efforts.

Sumter pays as much for cotton as any cotton market in South Carolina; that has been proved and can be proved again. But if a government grader is needed, and I believe an expert cotton grader will prove of value, and so will a cotton selling association, why the Sumter merchants and bankers will help out the cotton producers because what helps the farmers certainly helps every Sumter bank and other business establishments. But the leading and influential farmers of this county should come to the front and help the Chamber of Commerce organize, or try to organize the farmers, then use the Sumter banks and the Sumter Cham-

TELLS HOW TO MARKET COTTON

CONGRESSMAN LEVER SHOWS BETTER METHODS IN ADDRESS TO CALHOUN COUNTY FARMERS.

Great Benefit Derived From Having Expert Grader Supplied by Government—Cotton Marketing Association Formed.

St. Matthews, Sept. 22.—At a meeting held here yesterday addressed by Congressman Lever and participated in by a number of cotton producers, it was decided to form a cotton marketing association at this place. The association is to have an expert furnished by the government, whose work and services are to bear no burden upon the patrons of the association save small incidentals.

Congressman Lever went fully into the matter of the marketing of cotton in an intelligent way. He prefaced his remarks by showing that the cotton producer is almost helpless when he goes to market and offers for sale the product of his labor. That the producer is a heavy loser simply because of ignorance of the value of his cotton was shown. He stated that the average buyer of cotton was no expert and could be depended upon to grade eggs with as much precision as he graded the cotton he sold, and that many buyers graded low upon their bids in order to protect themselves upon a resale on the markets.

If an official expert grader were on the spot, said Mr. Lever, the seller would not lose the difference between actual value on the quotations of the day and the price paid presumably on those quotations. That many men are lining their pockets in this way was a suggestion thrown out to the audience.

Mr. Lever explained the appropriation of \$50,000 by congress for the purpose of establishing a proper system of standard grades in connection with the bureau of marketing. In addition to this, there is now pending a bill which will establish a board of arbitration, which will settle differences by expert graders.

The congressman stated that if the people desired it, the government would send to this place an expert cotton grader. He said that legislation was pending which he felt sure would be enacted at the coming session of congress, whereby a proper method of co-operation between the State and Federal warehouses could be maintained for the cotton which has been stored for securities.

Mr. Lever appeared well satisfied with legislation which had been enacted by the recent congresses in regard to agricultural products and was especially proud of the bureau of marketing and distribution which he is sure will prove a boon to producers. He seemed satisfied that the day is not long off when the producer can take his goods to town and with the assistance of the information furnished by the government, together with the advantages which these bureaus will give him, demand full value for that which he offers instead of going begging some one to buy at humiliating prices.

At the conclusion of his address an association was formed with J. E. Wannamaker, president, and J. C. Redmon, secretary and treasurer.

This was Mr. Lever's first trip to this place in many months. He was accompanied by D. S. Murph, secretary to the committee on agriculture of the national house. Mr. Murph presided today. Although he has just emerged from a long hard congress, Mr. Lever looks well and seems anxious to get into the work assigned him in the national campaign.

BREAD PRICE INVESTIGATION.

Washington, Sept. 26.—The Federal trade commission is seriously concerned over reports of actual increases in bread prices in various parts of the country. The apparent certainty of a nation-wide increase in food prices made it clear to the federal authorities that consideration of the problem must be hastened. The commission reassembles next week to take up the bread situation. Commissioner Davies announced that the whole problem will be taken up and a solution sought. Federal district attorneys are reporting the actual advances in their districts. The similarity of the advances in different cities creates the belief that the anti-trust law may be violated.

NORWEGIAN SHIP SUNK.

Madrid, Sept. 26.—The Norwegian ship Burjord has been sunk off the Spanish coast. The crew of twenty-three was saved.

Yes Till got seven orders in one, as far as Atlanta, and he sells them as far south as Jacksonville, Fla., and as far north as Philadelphia. Come in and see these orders if some of you doubters, doubt it.—Advt.

ber of Commerce to the greatest possible extent in carrying out the intentions of the farmers' association.

GERMAN LINES BROKEN.

BRITISH AND FRENCH DELIVER SMASHING BLOW ON SOMME.

Six Miles of German Trenches Captured—Several Important Strategic Towns Taken from the Germans—Combles Almost Surrounded and French Nearing Peronne.

London, Sept. 25.—Attacking simultaneously on an arc of 15 miles, running from Martinpuich to the Somme, the British and French forces have delivered another smashing blow on the German lines and pushed forward their positions for notable gains.

From Martinpuich to Combles a distance of six miles the British have driven in their wedge to a depth of more than a mile and captured in the attack the important strategic towns of Les Boeuifs and Morval, the latter a scant mile north of Combles.

To the French fell the town of Rancourt, two miles east, and the outskirts of Fregicourt, one mile north-east of Combles. In addition, trenches near Fregicourt, in the vicinity of Bouchavesnes and to the south from the vicinity of the Canal du Nord to the Somme were taken.

The capture of Morval by the British and of part of Fregicourt by the French apparently seals the fate of Combles, which the Germans have determinedly held for weeks despite the violent attacks thrown against it. The defenders of the virtually surrounded town have left to them to escape only the valley, a mile in width, running north-northeast, and in the traversing of which they must come under the guns of the British and French respectively from Morval and the vicinity of Fregicourt.

Another notable step in their approach upon Peronne is marked in the capture by the French of trenches in the Canal du Nord region.

Except in France, there have been no important engagements on any of the various fronts. Berlin reports the repulse of Russian attacks in Volhynia, Galicia, and the Carpathians. Petrograd still is silent as to the operations on the Eastern front, but unofficial advices say the Russians have begun a new offensive on a large scale in the hope of pushing down the counterattacks of the Germans and piercing their front before winter sets in.

The Roumanians still are struggling for supremacy over the Balkan allies in the Saurduk and other parts of the Transylvanian front. According to Berlin, attacks have been repulsed.

In the Macedonian campaign continued reports of successes for the entente allies come from their various war chancelleries. West of Florina, the Russians have captured a hill from the Bulgarians; the Serbians have crossed the frontier into their own country and reached a position north of Kreuzograd, while the French northeast of Florina have penetrated the outskirts of Peralai. The British to the north of Lake Tahnos on the eastern end of the battle line, also report an advance, but Berlin says that all their attacks were repulsed.

Aside from the capture by the Italians of an important mountain peak on the Trentino front, only bombardments have taken place in the Austro-Italian theatre.

Notwithstanding the loss of two Zeppelins in an air raid on eastern England Saturday night, the Germans Monday night again returned to the attack with airships and dropped bombs in the northern and north midland counties.

BRITISH TAKE COMBLES.

London, Sept. 26.—The British have entered Combles, achieving one of their most important Somme victories. The German resistance was desperate.

Manning Grants Negro Reprieve.

Columbia, Sept. 23.—Gov. Manning today granted a reprieve to Ben Landon, a negro, convicted in July of murder in Beaufort and sentenced to be electrocuted September 29. The purpose of the reprieve is that the case of Landon may be reviewed by the State board of pardons. The new date of electrocution is November 29.

Just write Till, Sumter, that's all. Everybody knows Till, even the postmaster and he will send you a catalog of the \$180 piano.—Advt.

Washington, Sept. 25.—Slight increases in the sick rate of both National Guard and regular troops on the Mexican border are shown in a report today to the war department. For the week ending Sept. 16, the guard sick percentage was 2.13, as compared with 1.91 for the week preceding. That of the regulars was 2.63 against 2.15.

The editor of this paper saw an order from Atlanta to Till for a piano this week. Way, because Till sells 'em for less.—Advt.

WILSON IN BALTIMORE.

PRESIDENT TELLS GRAIN DEALERS' CONVENTION OF NEW ERA.

Address at Baltimore, Almost Devoid of Politics, Chief Executive Points Out Bright Promise Held by Future—Legislation Opens Way.

Baltimore, Sept. 25.—President Wilson delivered a speech almost devoid of politics before the National Grain Dealers' convention here today. Discussing ways in which American commerce can be expanded, he told an audience of 3,800 people that through the new tariff commission, the trade commission, the federal reserve act, the shipping bill and similar measures he expected business men in this country to open a new era for the nation.

"The purpose of legislation in the immediate future in this country," Mr. Wilson declared, "is going to be to remove all ingenious constructions and make perfectly clear what the liberties as well as what the restrictions of trade are in this country."

Every effort was made by the president to keep the visit to Baltimore non-partisan, but when he entered the Lyric theatre for his speech he was greeted with a four minute demonstration which kept him bowing again and again. A band playing "Dixie" and other popular tunes added to the din of the cheering and handclapping. The theatre was packed with grain dealers from all parts of the country and their friends and many visitors were turned away. The president spoke emphatically and several exclamation points, usually missing in his addresses, were found in the official copy of his speech.

COMMISSION FORM STANDS.

Columbians Refuse to Make Change in Government.

Columbia, Sept. 26.—Columbians by a vote of four to one today refused to recall the commission form of government. The vote was 1,099 to 258. The opponents to the system did not carry a single ward in the city. The vote was less than the number of petitioners asking for the election.

ELEVEN TRAWLERS SUNK.

London, Sept. 27.—German submarines are more active in the North sea. Scarborough dispatches today reported the destruction of eleven trawlers. The crews were saved.

Columbia, Oct. 27.—John L. McLaurin, State warehouse commissioner told the executive committee of the State Warehouse association, when requested to come to their session last night after they had taken action upon his contemplated resignation, that he would comply with their request and remain in the position which he holds. The committee met in Columbia last evening on the call of the secretary of the association, John K. Aull. Mr. Aull is private secretary to Mr. McLaurin.

Fire in Chicago.

Chicago, Sept. 27.—Fire from an explosion of gasoline destroyed a garage with one hundred automobiles. The loss is estimated at \$150,000.

Gerard Coming Home on Vacation.

Washington, Sept. 27.—Secretary of State Lansing announced today that permission had been given Ambassador Gerard at Berlin to come home on his vacation.

Advancing Business Interests

Modern commercial banking facilities; resources adequate to every business need; the individual services of an alert, efficient organization are at the disposal of our every patron.

Interested attention on the part of our Officers is assured at all times. A cordial invitation is extended to progressive business men to call and investigate this broad, helpful commercial service.

The National Bank of Sumter,
"SAFEST FOR YOUR SAVINGS"

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We Cordially Invite you to Inspect the Following Lines
Now and During the Fashion Show

Coat Suits in Poplin, Serge, Broad Cloth and Velour from \$12.50 to \$42.50
Sport Coats from \$5.00 to \$12.50. Plush Coats from \$20.00 to \$35.00.
Long Wool Coats from \$6.00 to \$18.00. A big line of Children's Coats.
Kid Gloves \$1.25 to \$2.00
The most complete line of Silks and Dress Goods we have ever carried.
Our fall shipment of Buster Brown Hose just received.



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If you need anything at all in the Shoe Line, Try Us

Ladies' Fancy 8 inch Boots in Kid, Patent Leather and Buck from \$4.00 to \$8.00
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Let us have a trial in order to convince you about our line of Children's Shoes in White Canvas, Patent Leather and Gun Metal.

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