

**McLAURIN ON COTTON PRICES.**

**Says That Too Much Stress Has Been Laid Upon Mere Money in the Prosecution of the War—Must Have Prosperity.**

Editor The Item:

Since a recent drop of about 10c a pound in the prices quoted on the New York Cotton exchange I am receiving daily more letters than I can answer requesting opinion and advice. I take this method of replying to some as I think the matter is of sufficient interest to warrant publication. Cotton cannot be considered in this great crisis, except in the relation it bears to war. England, in the beginning, undertook to do "business as usual" and found that it was impossible. We have found that war means financial prosperity and not poverty as predicted in 1914. We must realize that the war can only be won by a constant advance in wages and prices of products. Consumption increases among wage earners instead of diminishing. Labor and its products are diverted each day from the "business as usual" channels to meet war purposes. We have laid too much stress on mere money in the prosecution of the war. The government is not able to spend the money we have already paid in from sales of bonds, war stamps and income taxes. What we need is the production of cotton, wheat, corn, iron, coal and steel. Money by itself cannot win the war. It is only useful to stimulate the production of the material and supplies. Another thing, the morale of the people must be kept up. This is only possible with prosperity. Cut the price of cotton to the cost of production, and no German army could inflict such a blow on the morale of our people. I regard the present war situation as most serious since battle of the Marne. The debacle in Russia gives Germany not only access to food, but has enabled her to bring at least a million veteran troops from the eastern front. Price fixing has driven the gamblers almost entirely out of wheat and stocks, they are now turning to cotton. The price of cotton depends largely upon the ability of the farmer to borrow on it, pay his debts and market gradually. I believe that there is a concerted attempt being made through the New York exchange to establish a low level of prices for the 1918 crop. They care very little about the remnant of the present crop, they are after bigger things. It is easy for a coterie of speculators to sell millions of bales of cotton on the exchange between themselves and make outside settlements. These fake prices, mark futures down on the board. The banker who has cotton loans sees the market report and calls the loans. This forces spot cotton on the market at constantly declining prices. The government established minimum prices on stocks and bonds in 1915. It has done so on wheat, and if this speculation in cotton is not checked, it will do so on cotton. I think the government should make it illegal to sell futures on any exchange at less than 30c. a pound. The fluctuation should be from 30c. up and not from 30c. down. We should not turn a bale loose at less than 30c. Cotton was 13 1-2c. in the summer of 1914 and 30c now is not as profitable as 13 1-2c. was then. Cotton goods are too high in proportion to spot cotton. It is the manufacturer, not the planter, who is making excess profits. Look at the contrast with pre-war conditions:

**Cotton Domestic July 15, 1914.**  
The prices are first for July, 1914, and then for May 5, 1918:

Standard 27-inch dress gingham, 7 1-4c; 25c.  
Standard 4-yard sheeting, 6c; 23c.  
Ten-quarter Pepperill sheeting, 29c; 62 1-2c.  
Wm. Anderson Ivanhoe gingham, 10 1-2c; 32 1-2c.  
Wm. Simpson standard prints, 6c; 22 1-2c.  
A. C. A. bed ticking, 10 1-2c; 38 1-2c.  
Cotton blankets, special size and weight, 75c; \$2.25.  
Child's ribbed stockings, per dozen, 85c; \$2.25.

The above prices are just a few taken at random. The prices go through the whole catalogue of items manufactured out of cotton. Now let's take the price of raw cotton July 15, 1914, and May 5, 1918. Middling cotton was selling at small interior points just before the war was declared at 13 1-2c. a pound. May cotton on May 5, 1918, was quoted on New York exchange at 25 1-4c. Look at comparison between raw cotton and manufactured products. Cotton on May 5, 1918, is hardly 90 per cent higher than on July 15, 1914, pre-war prices; the manufactured products run from 300 to 400 per cent higher. There should be a bank in connection with the State warehouse to handle nothing but agricultural paper. The Federal Reserve bank and the big New York banks would look to this institution to say when loans should be called and take advice from it, instead of speculative

interest. Mr. Harding of the Federal Reserve board and Mr. McAdoo are our reliance and some steps should be taken to enlist their aid, as was done in 1915. If we stabilize credits based on cotton, the price of spots will take care of itself. It is not cotton prices but cotton credit that controls. Respectfully,  
John L. McLaurin.  
Bennettsville, S. C., May 9, 1918.

**MRS. JNO. P. THOMAS DEAD.**  
Wife of Dean of University Law School.

Columbia, May 10.—Mrs. John P. Thomas, Jr., aged fifty-eight, wife of the dean of the law school of the University of South Carolina, died at her home here this afternoon at 3 o'clock after an illness of about a month. The funeral service will be held at the late residence tomorrow afternoon at 6 o'clock and the interment will be held in Elmwood Cemetery.

The deceased was Miss Mary Sumter Waites, daughter of the late Capt. John Waites and Frances Parker, of Columbia. She was born in this city on January 29, 1860, and was married to John P. Thomas, Jr., on January 29, 1879.

Besides her husband, she is survived by the following children, of Columbia: J. Waites Thomas; Mary S. Lumpkin and Caroline Gibbs Thomas, and by a brother, Thomas Waites, of Houston, Texas, and a sister, Miss Kate C. Waites, of Columbia.

**FIGHT ON SOMME FRONT.**

**Bulk of German Reserves Still There.**

London, May 10.—"The bulk of the German reserves is still in the rear of the Somme front and it must be assumed the enemy's big main effort will be in that direction," said a representative of Gen. Delma Radcliffe, chief director of military operations at the war office, in summing up the week's war development today. "It is equally certain that he will not discontinue his attacks in Flanders."

In the period between March 21 when the German offensive was begun, and April 25 the losses of the French were only one-fourth to one-fifth of those of the British General Radcliffe's reports advise. Since April 25, he said, there has been no reason to believe the losses of the French have been any heavier than those of the British. (The losses of the British since March 21, were estimated on May 4 by the British military mission at Washington nearly 250,000).

This information was given out in refutation of German propagandist assertions that the French have been bearing the brunt of the battle.

"In considering the course of these battles it must always be remembered that the capture of any particular position is not a material factor. Mere geographical gains are not the main consideration. It's rather a question of staying power. We must look to the end of the battle.

"The Germans have put in a considerable number of fresh divisions, both in Flanders and on the Somme front, during the last week and this is satisfactory to us, for it shows that we are getting through their fresh divisions very fast."

**TONNAGE LOSS CUT IN HALF.**

**Sinkings for Last Month Total 381-631 Tons.**

Washington, May 10.—Official French statistics on the submarine warfare received here in a dispatch from France today show that the total losses of all Allied and neutral ships, including accidents at sea, were approximately one-half as great during April, 1918, as during April, 1917. In the former period 634,685 gross tons were lost, while this year's figures are 381,631. Submarine attacks now are more costly for the enemy, it was pointed out, owing to the fact that the attacks are chiefly made with torpedoes instead of gun fire, as was the case before merchant ships were adequately armed.

Attention is also called to the fact that each time the Germans have made an offensive on land they made a corresponding offensive with their submarines. Thus during the second half of March the number and activities of submarines increased. The first half of April marked a very distinct lessening attributed to the counter-efforts of the Allies.

**AVIATOR BURNED TO DEATH.**

**Fatal Accident at Pensacola Training Station.**

Pensacola, May 11.—Chief Quartermaster Richard C. McAlia, student aviator, was burned to death, and George I. Henderson, chief quartermaster, aviator student, was badly burned when their airplane fell at Santa Rosa stand yesterday. Henderson is expected to recover.

**GOING UP BUT SLOWLY STILL.**

In the Sale of Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps the County Moves Slowly Along—Buying is Not Widespread Enough.

Add to big buyers:  
C. G. Rowland, \$ 100  
J. J. Williams, " " 100  
Claremont Lodge, " " 100  
Fidelity Insurance Co., " 1,000

There are too many of them this trip for space to preach a little sermon on each. Just to mention, though, this is the second time Mr. Rowland has bought \$100 worth of stamps. Mr. Williams is a steady buyer, and has passed the century mark; after a while he will cross the line again. The Masons of Claremont Lodge, beside subscribing to the Red Cross and doing other good work, put a part of their surplus fund into your Uncle Sam's War Savings stamps, thus helping to steel the arms of brother Masons at the front.

The Fidelity Insurance Company did it all at once and joined the Limit Club. The Limit Club of this county now has a membership of six, four individuals and two corporations.

Spartanburg stands high in the ranks of the War Savings counties in this State, and Spartanburg has a great many members in its Limit Club. A membership of fifty in this county would be an easy matter, if the buyers would buy, or would subscribe for that amount during 1918. The whole purchase does not have to be made at one time; we have all the year in which to do it; but one beginning is worth a whole fistful of delays. Subscribe for the amount of stamps you want and they will be delivered to you at the times you state.

Captain Doar gives us as the sale for the week ending May 11th, \$2,766.42, cash basis, making a total to date of \$24,164.43. Now, of this amount, Big Buyers, that is, those who have bought \$100 or more, have taken about \$12,000 worth, maybe more, because a whole lot of big buyers never speak of their purchases. Outside of these, therefore, Sumter county at large has purchased only about \$12,000 or about twenty-five cents per capita. Not enough people are buying. The government has asked that everybody, each person, no matter who, no matter where, buy stamps to the extent of \$20 during 1918. We have not done it. Some few have, and these few frequently have exceeded their quota and have bought enough to make up for the unable or the slacker who lives around him. There should be more.

War Savings Societies should be everywhere. There are some in town, but not near enough. There are some in the county but not near enough. The central War Savings Committee while standing ready at all times to go anywhere and help cannot be everywhere at all times directing the work. The local directors must start the work and call in the committee; the committee will be glad to assist. In the city Mrs. J. A. McKnight has been delayed in her work of organizing by illness in the family, but expects soon to be actively at it. Those who are already buying should affiliate themselves with some War Savings Society. Those who are not buying should get in a society and start. On every city block a War Savings Society should be operating.

Is there a War Savings Society on your block?

The War Savings Committee goes to Hagood Tuesday afternoon, where there will be a joint meeting of the Hagood, Rembert and Horatio War Savings Societies. The committee will go anywhere it is asked to go.

The Ladies' tables on the street has explained stamps to many a one who did not know anything about them and have started them to buying. You have done a good work when you have started off a new buyer.

The tables at the Chautauqua tent sold \$150.00 worth during the week.

Saving Sammy says:  
Sing a song of Thrift Stamps, sixteen in a row, take them to an agent and 16 cents or so change them for a War Stamp and for your energy you'll get a crisp \$5.00 bill in 1923.

**Baker School W. S. S.**

The young people of Baker school neighborhood organized a war savings club last Wednesday evening. Twenty-one members were taken in and the following officers chosen: President Chandler Beall; Secretary, Donald R. McLeod; Treasurer, Ellison Evans. After the business of organizing, a very interesting talk was made by Mr. J. W. Odum, on thrift and war savings stamps.

The first regular meeting will be held next Wednesday evening at 8.30 o'clock. A good crowd is expected and we hope to swat the Kaiser with quite a number of stamps.  
Donald R. McLeod.  
Sumter, Route 4.

**CHAMP CLARK FOR HARMONY.**

**SPEAKER OF HOUSE ADVOCATES PATRIOTISM IN PLACE OF POLITICS.**

**Loyal Americans Will Concentrate All Efforts on Winning the War and Until a Victorious Peace Has Been Obtained There Should Be No Partisan Politics.**

Fort Wayne, Ind., May 11.—Tear work at the November elections to preserve the present political harmony between the president, the senate, and the house, was urged upon the country by Speaker Champ Clark, in a speech delivered here tonight before an assemblage of Indiana Democrats.

"Why should the American voters inject discord into the various parts of the government machinery," he asked, "when the utmost harmony should prevail in this awful crisis of our affairs—indeed, the whole world's affairs—when representative government is at stake? I do not believe they will be so unwise and therefore I confidently expect that the House of Representatives elected in November will be Democratic, to back up a Democratic president and Democratic administration in the most stupendous task ever undertaken by the children of men. The best possible team work is needed to secure victory in the titanic struggle in which we are now engaged."

Speaker Clark came here to deliver the only prepared speech he expects to make during the campaign. He talked of patriotism, of the record of congress and how the executive and congress have cooperated to give the fullest possible measure of resources toward victory over the German foe.

"Certain gentlemen of high degree," he said, "have suggested that elections be omitted during war and that those in office continue to serve until peace returns. That, of course, is utterly impossible under our system for the constitutional mandate as to the election and terms of service of elective officers is imperative. Other eminent personages have suggested that politics be eschewed in the selection of senators and representatives this year. If it could be so arranged it would be well, but signs multiply indicating that the usual method will be persued save in exceptional cases."

The speaker declared that in the house there had been little evidence of partisan politics since the beginning of the war. Democrats, Republicans and Independents fraternize so thoroughly on war measures, he said, that strangers sitting in the gallery would find it difficult to distinguish between them.

"Patriotism," he added, "has been in the ascendant since the commencement and I fervently hope and pray that it will prevail to the end."

Victory is the habit of the American people, who will not be satisfied until victory perches upon our banners," said the speaker.

"President Wilson and the congress," he continued, "have solemnly dedicated all our vast resources in men and money to the successful prosecution of this war. The congress will vote every man and every dollar necessary to redeem the solemn and sweeping promises we made. The president and his administration have been given all the sinews of war asked for—huge, unheard of, undreamed of sums, and they have spent it for the good of the country and the cause.

Reviewing the work of the present congress, Mr. Clark said senseless criticism of the legislative branch of the administration should cease.

"Congress did its duty," he declared, "the president did his duty, and, so far as I have been able to ascertain, all cabinet officers and all the vast roster of officers, clerks and helpers of every species have done their duties."

The Democrats, he declared, plant themselves firmly and triumphantly not on promises, but upon monumental things accomplished.

"On that magnificent record," he concluded, "we go to the people with unbounded confidence, appealing to their good sense and to their love of our country."

Washington, May 10.—Italy's contribution to the reserve army General Foch is building up behind the lines in France for supreme emergency use numbers nearly 250,000 men, official dispatches today say, and the force is being strengthened steadily.

Washington, May 13.—More than two hundred women representing organizations throughout the country engaged in war work, are here for the opening sessions of the May conference of the Women's Committee of the National Council of Defense.

Another fellow told us a funny joke yesterday. At any rate he seemed to think it was funny—judging from the way he laughed.—Columbus Enquirer-Sun.

**Hagood Goes Traveling.**

On May 1st at 8:45 A. M., your correspondent in company with W. H. Freeman, his son Willie and Rev. T. E. Derrick, pulled out from Dinkins' Mill for Greenwood to attend the State Sunday school convention, going by way of Camden and Columbia with a stop over in the latter place of two hours.

Small grain from home to Camden promises well, and from home to beyond Columbia all crops were planted. "A bad beginning makes a good ending." But we had a good start for from the mill to Columbia, speaking nautically, the sailing was splendid, and even twenty miles beyond, to the line of that most excellent of counties, Newberry, it was not indifferent, but from there our troubles began to multiply, with a very smart gentleman misdirecting us at Dyson. Going at a snail's pace we came upon a batch of negroes and inquired: "How are the roads?" "Purty good, sah." Two hundred yards further on we came upon a party stout still, mired, and looking back saw our batch of negroes coming to pull us out. We did not get in and they got no fee from us or the others for we got them out. When we were well up in Greenwood county the roads began to improve and so tired, worn sick and hungry we arrived in Greenwood about 8.30 p. m. and found a tremendous crowd come together. On Friday morning your correspondent took the interurban to Williamson from whence afoot he proceeded to Whitefield, a community half way between that place and Anderson where live the Bowlands, Armstrongs, Knights, Kays, Breazeals, etc, a great fine people, a few of whom are blood red Bleasites. We found the people here busily planting corn and cotton, having been delayed by the wet of April. All this country has been hard hit in its small grain by the se-Hun sympathizer anywhere in that land, but here in my own county, the old Game Cock county, are people who, in these times of stress, when one holds his breath in painful suspense, are declaring "If they put me at the front never a bullet of mine would do those innocent people harm. No matter if he's my brother, my elder brother, not religiously; (Jesus Christ was the world's greatest democrat) and a Hun sympathizer I have no use for him, because he's a Judas, he's a traitor to my country, he's a worse tory, he's my deadly enemy, a snake in the grass, waiting his opportunity to do his devilish work.

Draw the lines, draw the lines, with the sheep on the right and the goats on the left. Separate them, vere winter. In all our travel we saw only three or four fair lots of wheat and only one lot of good oats.

"How's politics?" They say "We are not discussing politics. How's the war?"

This is a great people, if some are Bleasites. They are patriotic to the last drop of their blood, and no slackers, not a bit of it, leave off Hun sympathisers.

We know of one little farmer, not more than three horse, two we think, who took eleven hundred dollars in bonds and thrift stamps, and he is not alone.

Another, who would have been at the front had they let him, told the writer and he meant it, that he would supply his brother, gone to the front with all he needed if the government would only put it to him. We never saw or heard of a slacker, and keep them separate. They are not of us though they went out from us, and as Christ had no concord with Bellal, so have Americans no concord with these. That was a splendid cartoon in the State of the 5th, and well illustrates the present attitude of many of these pseudo citizens. But enough of this.

Mesdames J. L. Jackson and Chas. Sanders, who are working for the Liberty bonds, and whose boys are at and going to the front, spent May 1st with Mrs. H. C. Bethea.

A wounded captive Hun officer, under treatment of a gentle French nurse, in appreciation of her service promised to let her hear from him when he got back. She was surprised some time after to receive a package from him, on opening which she found the two hands of a babe. But these are lies, and we are monumental liars, says the Hun sympathizer.

"Hagood."

Rembert, May 9.

Will Ferguson Dies in Electric Chair.

Columbia, May 11.—Will Ferguson, Barnwell county negro, was electrocuted at the State penitentiary yesterday morning at 11.30 o'clock.

Ferguson was convicted of attempted rape in Barnwell April 29 and brought to Columbia that afternoon. The crime was committed a few weeks prior to that date and a special trial ordered. At the time the crime was committed a lynching was threatened, but was averted by the promise of a speedy trial.

Washington, May 11.—The enlisted strength of the navy exclusive of the reserve forces is more than 200,000 according to official returns today to the navy department. Voluntary enlistments continue at the rate of 1,000 per week. The naval reserve force now numbers 110,000.

Switzerland reports that her neutrality has been violated 586 times since the war began. Wonder just what Switzerland's quota is?—Indianapolis News.

**NEW PARTNERSHIP LAW.**

**All Mercantile and Industrial Establishments Required to Register Proprietors.**

The following is the text of the act of the last legislature requiring the names of all members of all firms to be filed with the Clerk of Court:

**An Act**  
To require all mercantile and industrial establishments, other than corporations having a place of business in this State to disclose the names and their addresses of the proprietors thereof and to provide a penalty for failure to do so.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of the State of South Carolina: That from and after the passage of this act all mercantile and industrial establishments, other than lawfully chartered corporations, having a place or places of business in this State shall file with the clerk of court of the county in which the principal place of business of each mercantile and industrial establishment is located, the name or names of the owner or owners, proprietor or proprietors thereof, and in case of copartnerships the name of each and every partner having any interest therein and shall exhibit on a sign over or alongside the entrance of each place of business of each mercantile or industrial establishment the name or names of the owner or owners, proprietor or proprietors thereof, including the name of each partner of a copartnership, such name or names to be printed in Roman letters of such sizes as to be read easily.

Section 2. In case there be any change in the owner or owners, proprietor or proprietors of any such mercantile or industrial establishment, any person retiring from such ownership or proprietorship shall file in the office of the clerk of court of the county in which the principal place of business of such mercantile or industrial establishment is located a notice of such change and shall have the sign or signs herein provided for changed, and until both such notices shall be filed and such change made on such signs, such person shall be liable for all debts and contracts of such mercantile or industrial establishment according to the interest he or she formerly had therein.

Section 3. The Clerk of Court shall keep all such statements of ownership or proprietorship on file and shall record the same in a book to be provided for that purpose and shall keep such book indexed. He shall receive as a fee for filing any such statement or notice of change the sum of one dollar.

Section 4. Any person violating any of the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined ten dollars or be imprisoned for five days for each day such mercantile establishment shall do business. In case of a fine being paid one-half of the amount paid shall be paid to the person serving out the warrant. In case of a copartnership each partner shall be severally liable.

Section 5. That this act shall take effect on the first day of July, 1918. Approved the 9th day of March, A. D. 1918.

**COMPROLLER GENERAL ILL.**

**In Delirious Condition Tries to Enter Office in State Building.**

Columbia, May 12.—Carlton W. Sawyer, Comptroller General of South Carolina, is ill with pneumonia in a local hospital. Tonight Dr. T. M. DuBose, Jr., physician, issued the following bulletin: "Mr. Sawyer is ill with pneumonia at the Columbia Hospital where he was taken soon after he was found in the State House in a delirious state. His condition Sunday afternoon is satisfactory."

In the early hours of Saturday morning Mr. Sawyer was discovered scantily clad trying to get in his office in the State House by the night watchman. He was in a delirious condition. Mr. Sawyer evidently had a fall as shown by several bruises on his body. It is said that pneumonia renders the patient speedily delirious and at times makes him subject to mental vagaries. This would account for Mr. Sawyer's condition. Mr. Sawyer had been complaining for several days, but none of his friends realized that he was seriously ill.

**NAVY GROWS DAILY.**

**Enlisted Strength Now Two Hundred Thousand.**

Washington, May 11.—The enlisted strength of the navy exclusive of the reserve forces is more than 200,000 according to official returns today to the navy department. Voluntary enlistments continue at the rate of 1,000 per week. The naval reserve force now numbers 110,000.