

SUGAR PRODUCTION.

What America and Germany Have Done to Develop the Beet Sugar Industry.

London, June 1.—Correspondence of The Associated Press: In a report on the sugar supply question in Great Britain, Prof. George Martineau of the University of London, urges the British government to learn from Germany and the United States which he describes as "the two countries which have handled the sugar question most successfully." Speaking of Germany's success with sugar in the past decade he says: "There are two causes at the bottom of this mystery. Energy, ability, efficiency, and more than all, persistent research, constituted the first and best cause. But this was supplemented by a stimulus designed to induce capitalists to risk their money in the beet root industry."

"It was Germany that hit upon the right kind of stimulus. It was a brilliant idea and carried out with great judgment. The sugar duty was levied, not upon the sugar produced, but the roots. This at once stimulated the farmer to produce the richest possible quality of root, and the manufacturer to extract from the root the largest possible quantity of sugar. Great pains were taken to breed an improved variety of sugar beet."

"This research still goes on in Germany and its success has been astounding. At the beginning the sugar beet contained less than 6 per cent of sugar. In Germany the average quantity of sugar actually extracted has been brought up to practically 18 per cent."

"That this wonderful result was caused by the stimulus, plus of course great efficiency, is proved by the fact that poor France continued getting a 6 per cent yield until it adopted the German system, and even then never succeeded in catching up in the race. That is the worst of being too late. In industry it is fatal." In the United States, says Professor Martineau, the industry has been carefully fostered that the production has increased many-fold. "If America had not created this great increase in production," he explains, "we should at the present moment be suffering—and so would America—from a real sugar famine."

"In 1915 the consumption of sugar in the United States amounted to the large figure of 4,250,000 tons, even ounce of which, with the purely accidental exception of 23,000 tons, came from her own states, territories and protectorates. This striking fact is entirely the result of giving a preference. The United States, so far as sugar is concerned, is now entirely independent of the outside world, and is even able to spare us a million tons whenever we are short of supplies."

The rain and wind storm Monday afternoon was quite severe in the city but did no particular damage, except to some of the wires of the Lightnings Company. On East Liberty street a pole and a tree were blown down, carrying a number of wires and blocking the street. The current was necessarily cut out until the wires could be repaired and in consequence the Daily Item was, as usual the chief sufferer, as the last and most important telegrams of the day, dealing with the submarine raid had just arrived and could not be put into type until the power circuit was turned on.

North and east of the city the storm was more severe and was accompanied by considerable hail. A the Sumter Brick Works one smoke stack was blown down and the other twisted out of shape, and the buildings were somewhat damaged. The plant has been shut down for repairs. In the country districts the hail did great damage to crops, especially tobacco and oats. In some sections the tobacco crop is reported to have been practically ruined, but it is probable that the damage is over-estimated on first appearances. The damage to oats is large, as the high wind and hail beat it to the ground and it will be difficult to save much of it, it being too flat on the ground to be harvested by either a reaper and binder or mowing machine. The wheat was not as seriously damaged as oats, as it stood up better, but the loss on both wheat and oats will be quite large. The grain crop was just ready for harvest and those who started harvesting last week and had their grain shocked in the field were fortunate. In the districts where the fall of hail was heaviest corn and cotton were both injured—a few reports having come in of a total destruction of corn and serious damage to cotton.

Most of us can remember the old-fashioned man who scratched matches on the seat of his pants.

When a man feels too big for his job, the boss accepts his resignation with resignation.

The danger about suing a man for libel is that he may be able to prove it.

750,000 NEW SOLDIERS.

That is the Number Gen. Crowder Figures Will be Added by Today's Registration.

Washington, June 5.—Today, on the anniversary of America's first manpower mobilization, another million youths, the estimated strength of the class of 1918, register on the first station of the journey to the colors.

When their draft registration cards come into their hands, they come to the disposition of a swift, smoothly-working and practiced organization, whose agencies in every country-side, hamlet, and city of the land have assumed successfully the task of discriminating between the nation's need for men who can fight or work, and its additional need for men at home to support its dependent population.

Observers, foreign and domestic, military and civilian, alike, class the performance to date under the American selective service law as the most tangibly successful of its military efforts, and regard the accretion to the man-power reservoir of the youngsters who had not reached their majority one year ago as the most certain assurance of the final downfall of the Prussian autocracy. Be it near or far, the day of Allied victory cannot be evaded, the practical military view is, so long as the rising flood of the American armies, drilled, equipped and equipping, can be turned to the European battlefield.

Provost Marshal General Crowder, who supervises the draft, fixes the tentative number given above for the day's new total, and likewise from the experience tables of the year places the number of potential soldiers to be added to the list today at 750,000, concluding that the class will be 75 per cent composed of military effectives.

As they assemble at the registering stations today, the total of men raised by the draft in the United States for its armies will pass 1,300,000. Before the end of the present month, the mobilized total will have passed 1,500,000, for the immense military machine that owes its existence to the readiness of plain Americans to light is moving forward to a goal that will meet President Wilson's demand for "force, force to the utmost, and force without stint."

The 4,500 local boards throughout the country who take the burden of the work have named registering clerks for every 100 of the young men within their jurisdiction. Men absent unavoidably from their homes on registering day may apply to any board for their cards. Names as recorded will pass into the existing classifications of registered men and in accordance with their physical qualifications, their status as to dependents and as to industrial or agricultural occupations, they will be assigned to Class One, Two, Three Four, or Five. The overwhelming majority, however, as indicated by the estimate given, the provost marshal general expects to find placed in Class One.

They will go to the foot of the list of 1917 registrants in each class, and will not be called, the regulations provide, until those above them have been taken, unless by trade or education they are fitted for specialized army service, then they may be called sooner. The system of determining the order of their call as among themselves the provost marshal general has not yet fixed, but the general expectation is that some sort of a lottery of the type previously used, will be conducted on a national scale. Yet of this officials are not certain, because the recurring draft calls come more swiftly, and run to larger totals now, and the classification has come to be more important than the numbers. A late order number will serve only to postpone for a few days the inevitable call to the training camps.

National purpose to see that no individuals evade service is expressed in the regulations, wherein are voiced the command of the government to peace officers of all descriptions—United States marshals, secret service men, and city police, that they shall assist exemption boards in scanning lists and coming out attempted evaders of the registration.

Figures available show that no other country participating in the great war has the actual resources in men that the United States has. Against the provost marshal general's estimate of 1,000,000 for the American military class of 1918, which is added to the almost 10,000,000 total of 1917 can be placed the German annual increment of 600,000, the French of 400,000, and the Italian of 250,000. And all these classes in other countries have been called in advance.

PARDON OF MOONEY URGED.

Washington, June 5.—President Wilson has written a second letter to Gov. Stephens, of California, urging that he pardon Thos. J. Mooney, the labor agitator who was convicted several months ago of murder and sentenced to death.

Outlook for Cotton.

To the Editor of The News and Courier:

It is fairly certain that if any considerable amount of cotton is carried this fall by cotton merchants, spinners and speculators it could easily tie up an amount of money that would be, not only a standing menace to the cotton trade, but a menace to the morale of the business of the nation as well. The cotton not required for immediate use, however, must be carried by somebody. As it has been definitely established that cotton is a surplus crop, it is evident that the producers are the only members of the cotton community who can do this without subjecting the trade and the country to a perilous risk.

The trend of events indicates that the producers will have to do this the coming season to protect their own interest. These events are rather plainly outlined. Due to the scarcity of labor, it has been evident for some time that the country was facing reduced production. It is reasonable to expect that this will be reflected in reducing the output of American cotton mills just as it will be reflected in reducing the output of most of the other standard industries. Then, the movement of troops and war supplies aboard can hardly be expected to reach its maximum by fall. Hence, any relief of the export situation by that time is problematical. At least, it is safer to calculate that it will not improve.

It seems therefore, within a reasonable probability that the producers will have to face at the beginning of the season of 1918 a reduced consumption of American cotton and the handling of a growing surplus in addition to the new crop. Assuming that this situation develops, it is perfectly obvious that if the producers attempt to force the new crop on the market as it is gathered from the fields it will have to be sold at a sacrifice, and there are many evidences that it will be at a ruinous sacrifice at that.

This prospective situation is far more momentous than many of us probably realize. It involves matters of the very greatest public concern, as indicated above, for it will plainly affect, and very vitally so, other large financial and commercial interests, and vast military interests also, quite as much as it will affect the cotton trade. In view of these things, the attitude of the producer in such circumstances is a matter of first importance. How will he meet such a situation should it come about, and has he the resources to carry the cotton until it can be marketed not only without a sacrifice but at a profit? In what direction shall we turn for an answer to these questions?

The clearest and most illuminating answer resides in the history of the cotton market during the last five years. It shows, with only one exception, that the producers have carried practically all of every crop during this time until their views as to the price were realized. And this was done in the face of difficulties, many of them, far more formidable than any that are likely to develop the coming season. It is significant that at no time during this period has any appreciable amount of cotton in the hands of the producers been disturbed by breaks in the future market including, too, the historic event of February 1st, 1917, and the events of recent weeks. It should be emphasized in this connection that the only spot cotton affected by these declines had passed out of the hands of the producers.

The exception referred to was the decline which followed the breaking out of the war, and it throws a most illuminating light upon the ability and the disposition of the producer to take care of their interest. The demoralization which followed the beginning of the war, it is well to remember, was not confined to cotton producers alone, but to every class of business men. The producers recovered from the shock as soon as any other members of the business community. After they recovered they financed and carried for more than a year an amount of cotton that was probably double any amount they are likely to be called upon to carry the coming fall, even should the prophecies as to coming developments be fulfilled.

It is a matter of record that the producers are infinitely stronger today financially than they were when the war began, as the six billion dollars returned from Southern farms for the year 1917 will attest. This does not include, it should be stated the returns from livestock. Not many people probably realize that the sixteen Southern States own practically one-third of the cattle, swine and sheep of the entire country, and that the increase from this source of wealth is, by far, greater than has been the increase in any other section of the country. Then, in 1917 the finances of the country were completely demoralized, now they are working with potential precision un-

der the Federal Reserve Act. Since that year, too, the farm loan bank has become a tremendously constructive force in the producers' economic life.

It is prophesied now that the weight of the new crop will break the price. The same thing was prophesied in 1915, 1916 and in 1917. The producers, however, each time took care of the cotton and prices each time actually advanced as the movement rose to its crest. It is said that prices during these years were not so high as they will probably be this fall. That is likely true, but neither was the cost of producing these crops so high as will be the cost of growing the crop this year. Taking these records into consideration, it seems on the whole within a reasonable certainty that the producer's views as to what it will cost him to grow his cotton will have more to do with finally determining the price throughout the coming season than any other factor that is likely to develop.

What is the record as to this cost? The last year of normal conditions preceding war was 1913. The average price of cotton that year was 13 1-2 cents. The staple products consumed in the production of cotton advanced in price, from 1913 to 1918, 187 per cent. Or, in other words, the advance in the price of corn, meat, meal, flour, fertilizers, farm implements and standard dry goods increased the cost of growing cotton 25 1-4 cents a pound during this period. The crop of 1913 was produced by labor at from \$18 to \$20 per month. In producing the crop of 1918 labor will cost approximately \$75 per month. The department of agriculture in bulletin 192, just issued, showing the cost of growing cotton in the year 1913, fully confirms the higher cost of production which these records indicate.

The merchants, bankers and planters constitute the cotton producing interests. They are the real constructive force in Southern life and are perfectly familiar with these records. For some time they have been, and are still, subjecting the cost of growing cotton to a business-like analysis such as it was never subjected to before. The writer knows that throughout this investigation they have been, and are still, keenly differentiating between what is history, what is argument and what is merely market news. These men are fully aware of the difficulties that are likely to develop in the future, and they fully understand just how such difficulties have been met and overcome in the past.

With existing labor conditions it is, of course, possible to produce and harvest a cotton crop that would be a menacing burden, but it is clearly well beyond a reasonable expectation. Nor is a decline in the price of labor or food products any more to be expected. Based upon these clearly defined records it seems safe to calculate, therefore, that the crop of 1918 will go out of the hands of the producers at a higher level than did the crop of 1917. It is interesting to note that this forecast depends for justification, not so much upon theoretical speculations as it does upon mathematical deductions.

W. W. Morrison.

New Orleans, June 1.

TELEGRAPHERS WILL STRIKE.

Only Government Can Stop Plan.

Washington, June 4.—Only intervention by the federal government can prevent a general strike of operators employed by the Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies, S. J. Koenenkamp, president of the telegraphers' union, said tonight before leaving for Chicago. Upon his arrival there he planned to mail out the call for a walkout as a result of the refusal of the Western Union Company to submit to the jurisdiction of the national war labor board which sought to compose differences between the companies and the men.

After two days spent here in discussing the situation with administration officials members of congress and labor leaders, Mr. Koenenkamp said he doubted that, even should the government decide to intervene, action could be taken in time to prevent the men from going out.

Secretary Wilson, who discussed the situation with the union president, is understood to have laid the matter before the cabinet at its meeting today. Mr. Koenenkamp said he had been assured by President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor of his interest and sympathy and of such assistance as the federation could lend an affiliated union. Mr. Gompers made no statement.

Edward Reynolds, vice president and general manager of the Postal Company, issued a statement tonight saying there were not enough union operators to make a strike, and that if a strike were called not 2 per cent. of the telegraphers would respond.

General von Below is scheduled to command the next drive against civilization. Here's an instance where there should be something in a name.—Greenwood Journal.

WIPE OUT COMMISSION.

JNO. L. McLAURIN CENSURES NEW ASSESSMENT.

Columbia, June 6.—Jno. L. McLaurin came to Columbia from his home in Bennettsville yesterday to file his pledge and pay his assessment fee as a candidate for the office of governor this summer. While in Columbia Mr. McLaurin issued the following statement relative to the financial system of the State government and the warehouse system:

Of course personally my purpose in entering the contest is to perfect the State warehouse system, so as to provide a certain and safe method of financing our cotton and making sales direct to the mills.

We will be confronted with a disaster this fall parallel to that of 1914, unless this is done. We must have State insurance on cotton and prepare ourselves to hold the surplus until the war is over. Prices of goods have advanced an average of five cents a yard, while cotton has declined \$15 a bale in 20 days. Our cotton is just as valuable as it was 30 days ago; the banks are simply declining cotton paper. We will need the full power of the State behind our cotton crop. They refused me that power while I was warehouse commissioner, and I am going to ask the people for it direct. If they give it to me, I will give the South an object lesson on financing and marketing cotton, which will forever put us out of the power of gamblers and profiteering middlemen.

There is another thing I will do, if given the power, and that is overhaul and repair our fiscal system. I do not intend to place the blame on any particular man. It is the system, and I could not have done any better with the worn-out machinery myself.

Extravagance increases each year, and unless it is changed will bankrupt the State. In 1913 the tax levy was five and a half mills. In 1917 it was eight and three-fourths mills. In 1913 the total amount raised was \$1,858,948.63. In 1917 the total was \$2,716,922.76. This is an increase in State taxes within four years \$900,000. There is no corresponding increase in efficiency. Nor is this all. The figures are not available as yet, but I warn the taxpayers that under the methods adopted by the State tax commission the amount collected for 1918 will approximately double the taxes of the preceding years.

The entire scheme of taxation is faulty, out of date and unfair. It begets impotence and is the fruitful mother of extravagance. The tax commissioners are good men, but they will make a pitiful failure on the plan they are pursuing. If given the

power, I would wipe it out and start with the budget system, practiced by big corporations and in progressive civil governments all over the world. The commission started right by taking the census of the United States as a basis, but instead of trying to equalize land values in the various counties, I would assess the county a lump sum in proportion to wealth and population and let each county assess its land and other property and pay it into the treasury. The present plan will create jealousy, suspicion and endless discontent. The idea is to take land at 42 per cent. of the selling value, minus the buildings. The banks were assessed at 48 per cent. of their value and the commission reduced them to 42 per cent.

Who knows and how can the selling value of land be determined? It is easy as to stocks, which are constantly changing hands and whose dividends are fixed. The value of land can not be determined by its selling price. The value of lands is fixed by the yearly gross products and the net sales thereof. On this theory the commission has reduced the assessed value of banks from 48 to 42 per cent., while land has been advanced approximately 100 per cent.

Now when the 1918 tax levy of nine mills is levied on this increased valuation, it places the entire burden on land and practically doubles the taxes of the owner thereof. The theory may be good, but it is rotten in practice. In other words, take Marlboro county. The assessment on banks will show a decrease of 6 per cent., while the increase on land is 129 per cent. Land in Marlboro was assessed at \$6.13 an acre. Under the order of the commission it will this year be \$17.80 an acre. If all the buildings were destroyed (and they are assessed separately) the land of the county would hardly bring \$17.80 an acre.

Pickens was assessed at \$3.30 and is now placed at \$9.07. Barwell was assessed at \$3.52. It is now assessed at \$10.92. Anderson was assessed at \$6.75 and now at \$12.75, or about 96 per cent. increase. Richland was assessed at \$5.13 an acre under the old assessment and under the new assessment \$4.95 per acre. What will the people of the other counties say when they see Richland practically at the old valuation and they increased 100 per cent.

I believe I can be of great service to South Carolina and I intend to discuss public matters and outline public policies, instead of slinging mud and creating factionalism. Your only notice, Mr. Taxpayer, is a levy of a 100 per cent. increase on your land when you go to pay taxes next fall, and it is so arranged that practically the entire burden is on land minus buildings. It does not hurt the town, but it skins the country.

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