

DEFENSE COUNCILS AND COTTON PRICES.

Correspondent Differs From Dr. W. M. Riggs on Scope of Work of War Bodies.

To the Editor of The State:

Whatever theories may be advanced about the finances of the South; however much the South may become or sections of it has become, independent of cotton; however much better food producing farms can stand low prices of cotton than these farms that grow all cotton or fail to provide the food crops needed to feed labor and stock—the indisputable fact remains that the price of cotton determines the ability of our farmers to reach a better plane of living, to be able to do their share in the war activities. The price of cotton determines the business prosperity of all our people in the South and helps all the national life.

I think a bare statement of these facts sufficient. No one will try to refute them. Therefore it seems to me that in the South at least the question of a remunerative price for our great staple crop is a pertinent question for discussion in the State Council of Defense.

I am told that when at the last meeting of the State council two members suggested that the outlook for cotton prices should be discussed and a line of action suggested whereby the price may be reinstated and kept to profitable figures, that Dr. W. M. Riggs, president of Clemson Agricultural College, opposed it and took the position that cotton prices should have no part in the discussions of the council of defense. I am surprised that the head of a State institution, the support of which comes directly from the pockets of the farmers in the shape of the fertilizer taxes, three-fourths of which is used for cotton, should take such a position.

Not only do I believe that the financial condition of the people of the State and their ability to take Liberty bonds, war savings stamps, give to the Red Cross and other causes is properly subject for discussion in the meetings of the councils of defense, but the special ways by which their financial standing is improved or injured should also be discussed.

Further, I take it that the head of our agricultural college should be especially interested in the marketing side of farm life and of all men in the Council of Defense he should be the last to object to such a discussion. If the head of the agricultural college supported directly by us farmers is indifferent to our marketing problems, it is high time that the legislature take the matter up and by special act direct the college to do this kind of work. In this article I shall not attempt to suggest how this should be done. I want the people to begin to think about it and only vote for members of the legislature who will see that proper direction is given to the trustees and faculty of Clemson to take up this work.

I want to say further that councils of defense, federal reserve banks, war work commissions and other agencies that are bending every energy to win the war must look at problems from the standpoint of the producers of raw material as well as from the standpoint of manufacturers and consumers. While we are trying to fix a fair price to the consumer and a fair "spread" to the manufacturers we must not lose sight of the men who produce the raw material.

It seems to me from what I see and read that, alas! too often the growers of the food and clothing of the world are looked upon as a class that is not to be considered. They have free air, free wood, free water, God's free soil and sunlight. What more do they want? Any suggestions that they be paid remunerative prices is at once called "profiteering." Federal reserve bank officials say that farmers who did not sell cotton at 35 cents per pound should not be enabled to carry their cotton for a more equitable price when mills were selling their goods at 80 cents to \$1 per pound in the open wholesale markets of the country. "These prices would have justified the mill paying 40 cents to 50 cents for their staple and still have a fair if not a handsome profit" and "this in my judgment is the strongest factor (and I consider it a highly legitimate factor) which caused farmers to hold cotton which had reached 35 cents in the South."

This quotation is from a letter of one of the leading business men and farmers of the State to the federal reserve bank whose views are mentioned above.

In conclusion, the farmers of the State, white and black, are (with few exceptions) just as patriotic as any of our citizens. They are lending to the government and giving to war causes till it hurts. And they will lend and give more to the utmost, but they want to be encouraged to grow more foodstuffs and more cotton and be enabled to carry the surplus cotton till the war ends when a naked world will need to be clothed.

Salem. E. W. Dabbs.

WAR STAMP CAMPAIGN.

Pledges Received and Tabulated Through Noon, June 18th.

Table listing names and pledge amounts for the War Stamp Campaign, including Sumter District, Stateburg District, and Lincoln School.

Table listing names and pledge amounts for the War Stamp Campaign, including Sumter District, Stateburg District, and Lincoln School.

Table listing names and pledge amounts for the War Stamp Campaign, including Sumter District, Stateburg District, and Lincoln School.

Table listing names and pledge amounts for the War Stamp Campaign, including Sumter District, Stateburg District, and Lincoln School.

Table listing names and pledge amounts for the War Stamp Campaign, including Sumter District, Stateburg District, and Lincoln School.

Children's Market at Sumter.

Clemson College, June 19.—The Extension Division has learned with pleasure of the attempt by the ladies of the Woman's Division of the Sumter County Council of Defense, to establish a children's market at the court house in Sumter, on each Saturday, where the children of the county may sell their home grown products; and also the establishment of a general county market exchange for the service of the people of the country.

We call special attention to the wise insisting upon a proper preparation of the goods offered for sale. Their advice to the children is, "We wish also to impress upon you the importance of the market value of putting your goods up in attractive sanitary, and merchantable shape. Have your vegetables fresh and free from dirt, your butter wrapped in transparent fly-and-dust-proof paper, your canned goods neatly and legibly labeled, etc. Neatness and sanitation, together with attractiveness of display count for much in business circles."

It would greatly facilitate the handling of all home-grown products were this advice generally followed. These ladies render a public service in making quality their watchword.

Rev. Truesdale in Orangeburg.

Rev. Robert S. Truesdale, D. D., pastor of Trinity Methodist Church, Sumter, one of the most magnetic pulpit orators in the South Carolina Conference, will address the Men's Bible Class of St. Paul's Methodist Church at Orangeburg at 10.30 Sunday morning, June 23. A cordial invitation is extended to all of the men and young boys not only of the Methodist church but of the entire community. Come and hear the message of this noted preacher. You will be entertained and benefited and it is sincerely hoped that the men of this community will give Dr. Truesdale a large and inspiring audience on this occasion. Remember the hour, 10.30 sharp Sunday morning, June 23.—Orangeburg Times and Democrat.

There wouldn't be one fourth as many cars sold if the manufacturers didn't change the appearance of the car every season.

Some people seem to think that the admonition to avoid the very appearance of evil means to be careful about covering up tracks.

Advertisement for W. A. Thompson, Jeweler & Optometrist, featuring an illustration of a person at a lens grinder and text describing lens grinding services.