

PRACTICE ECONOMY THROUGHOUT STATE

Much Damage Expected Next Year if Season is Wet, According to Expert

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 28.—The practice of the severest economy, to build up a bank account, and the installation of a system of diversified agriculture, with livestock raising as the fundamental, are the surest means of meeting the boll weevil menace which threatens the whole State, according to a detailed statement on the cotton pest prepared by W. W. Long, director of extension, Clemson College, for Governor Cooper and released by the latter today for publication.

Dr. A. F. Conradi, entomologist, Clemson College, in a statement issued by Prof. Long, says if the cotton season of 1920 is wet, the serious damage from the boll weevil may be expected in the counties in the territory below a line drawn from a point on the Savannah river a few miles below Augusta, Ga., to Mt. Pleasant on the coast, namely: Beau fort, Hampton, Jasper, Colleton, Dorchester, Orangeburg, Bamberg, Aiken, Barnwell and Allendale. However, if the winter has low temperatures he said, and the growing season is dry, then no very serious damage is to be expected in these counties. If the winter is mild and followed by a wet growing season, he continued, then serious damage may be expected in the lowlands of Berkeley, Williamsburg, Georgetown and Horry counties, and furthermore damage may be expected in spots in low lands as far north as the latitude of Columbia.

"In coastal counties lying below a line from the southern part of Aiken County to Conway, in Horry county," claims Prof. Conradi, "cotton production is rapidly becoming a gamble and as already stated, serious damage will occur in 1920 if the season is wet; and it is of great importance that the planters in that section become self-supporting and self-sustaining immediately."

Prof. Long's statement follows: "This article is to discuss and emphasize the great devastation and hardships the people have passed through in States infested by the boll weevil in past years and the means they used to regain their present prosperity. Unless we prepare we have every reason to believe we will suffer a similar experience. It is admitted that in some sections the farmers have recovered and business is on a sound foundation; therefore we shall discuss this problem from four standpoints: The effect of the boll weevil on the agricultural interests in the States where it has existed for several years; second, effect of weevil on other industries, such as banking and oil mill interests; third, how best to prepare to meet this menace and fourth, the counties in this State in which we may expect the greatest damage next year.

"In the matter of cotton production in Texas in 1900 there were planted several million acres, producing 3,400,000 bales. In 1914 the acreage had increased to 11,900,000 acres, an 20 crop to 4,500,000 bales. It must be understood that the increased acreage in cotton in Texas has been in that part of the State known as the prairie section, which is very hot and has very little rainfall. In Louisiana, where the acreage remained practically the same during this fourteen year period, the production fell from one-half a bale per acre to something like one-third of a bale per acre. From these figures it will be seen that when the boll weevil was at its worst in these States there was a disastrous reduction in cotton production and they emphasize the absolute necessity for our people to begin at once to change their agriculture.

second, increase in foodstuffs; third, inability to get suitable fertilizer; fourth, labor shortages; fifth, disastrous season; sixth, increased profit from other market crops, such as peanuts, sweet potatoes, tobacco, hogs, sugar cane, etc. To give you an idea of the weather as affecting the crop out turn, at least 150,000 bales were cut off by the summer rains of this year.

"The advent of the boll weevil in Georgia was largely coincident with the breaking out of the war in Europe. War conditions were responsible for a cut of some 600,000 acres, crop in 1915. The actual value of the damage during that season as reported by the United States bureau of crop estimates, was the loss of about 26 pounds per acre in the southwestern section, meaning the loss of approximately 25,000 bales. The next season the boll weevil extended his damage across our southern border and increased the damage in the southwest about 10 pounds per acre. The loss due to reduction in acreage and in yield was about 100,000 bales during that season. In 1917 the weevil extended his scope with the result in loss of production of about 150,000 to 140,000 bales. It was not until the season of 1918, however that enough territory was under severe infestation to very greatly affect the State average. This year we cut the yield in the southern section from 20 to 25 per cent and was becoming active well up the State. During the season of 1919 the damage from the weevil was terrific, running from 280,000 to 300,000 bales. The State has most decidedly not recovered from the weevil, although acreage reaction has set in and the farmers in the southern section have earned to make cotton in spite of him and are gradually increasing their yield.

"Georgia land values have been increasing steadily for many years. The boll weevil was merely able to stop the increase temporarily in the worst infested sections. The effect in labor in the southwest, aggravated by war and other conditions, was very serious, leading to migration of thousands of workers. In the rest of the State it has not been very bad. The only thing which has enabled us to stand up under the onslaughts of the weevil was the exceedingly high price of cotton, coupled with the exceptional values and other markets for farm produce."

"These facts should emphasize the importance of our people beginning at once to practice the most severe economy. The question is how best to prepare to meet this menace. We can only hope to do these things that the wise men in those unfortunate sections have done, and they have been pointed out time and again by a great number of our citizens who have visited those sections of the country and by State and private agencies, but it is well to reiterate the methods they pursued. The first thing that I would suggest is that every man increase his bank account as rapidly as possible and treat it as a sacred fund, buying only those things absolutely necessary on the farm and the household, for after all a good, fat bank account to start with and freedom from any incumbrance is the best preparation for the boll weevil. The watchword should be economy! Economy in this year of plenty? A man in debt with the boll weevil to contend with has very little chance of holding his own. Our farm practice must consist of a diversified agriculture, livestock playing a great part in order to have livestock we must have pastures; in order to have pastures we must fence our farms. Let me emphasize that it takes years to make a good pasture out of poor land, therefore we must be willing to utilize acres of our very best land for this purpose. This is an item of expense that necessarily has to be met. The dairy cow and the hog as a State-wide proposition hold out the greatest hope. Experts at Clemson are ready and willing to give detailed information in the building of pastures, the growing of all kinds of forage crops and the building of silos. There are certain coast counties in which the growing of beef cattle can be successfully conducted, and that is true of certain individual farmers who have river bottom lands. Peanuts and tobacco, where the lands are adapted to growing these crops, should be produced. Those who have never had any experience in growing these crops necessarily should start on a small scale; again the Extension Service of Clemson College stands ready to give detailed information. Of course we are going to continue to grow some cotton, but it will be wise to reduce our acreage to six or eight acres to the plow, planting on our lighter lands, using a high-grade fertilizer, selecting an early maturing variety of seed and cultivating rapidly.

"One of the most difficult problems is the handling of tenants and ceasing them contented. It will be disastrous if an exodus of our labor takes place. The best way to satisfy a man is to keep him well fed, but under boll weevil conditions he must be made to feed himself. He may just as well recognize the fact that our renting system has to be readjusted. This is a problem that will have to be handled largely by the individual farmer, as no fixed and fast rule can be established. It is the purpose of the extension service to work out a definite program and hold meetings in January in those counties where the boll weevil is now present, offering for discussion with the farmers, bankers and merchants a systematic and logical plan of operations which they may adopt or make such changes as they think advisable for the year. We trust that these meetings will be largely attended. It may be well to mention that the funds of the extension service have been greatly reduced (practically \$30,000) by the withdrawal of the appropriations made by Congress for war purposes and we are unable to secure the necessary number of experts that we should have to do the best work. We are sadly in need of two experts in tobacco and peanuts, and additional beef and dairy cattle and marketing experts. To this end I would suggest that representatives

from those counties that will suffer from the weevil in the very near future meet with the governor and director of extension and at once provide sufficient funds to employ these experts whose entire time can be given to the problems in those counties. This, to my mind, is a most important step. Men of the caliber necessary cannot be obtained for a meager salary. Of course, sufficient funds must be provided for traveling expenses.

CAPT. ALCOCK BURIED IN ENGLAND

Funeral Services Held in Manchester For Famous Flyer—Honors Paid Aviator

Manchester, England, Dec. 27.—Funeral services were held here today for Capt. Sir John Alcock, the first aviator to make a nonstop airplane flight across the Atlantic, who died at Rouen, France, as result of injuries received when his plane crashed December 18 near Cotterville, in Normandy. Thousands of persons, including numerous army officers and airmen, attended.

The route from the church to the cemetery was lined with admirers of the late aviator here, and full military honors were rendered at the grave. Airmen acted as pallbearers. As the funeral ceremony ended buglers sounded the Last Post.

London, Dec. 27.—Hundreds of persons assembled in St. Paul's cathedral here today for memorial services held in tribute to Capt. Sir John Alcock.

ROUND UP OF BOOTLEGGERS

Wood Alcohol Poisoning Causes Revenue Officers to Get Busy

New York, Dec. 29.—One of the biggest roundups of bootleggers and manufacturers of illicit liquor ever made in the country is impending as the result of the wave of deaths and blindness which followed the sale of poisonous liquor, revenue officials announced today.

ADVANCE IN CORN PRICES

Canada Puts Up the Price of Wheat

Chicago, Dec. 29.—Corn and all other commodities dealt in on the Chicago board of trade advanced sharply today when it was learned the Canadian government had increased wheat price in Canada fifty cents a bushel. The principal advance here was in corn, which advanced three cents and a quarter a bushel.

COAL COMMISSION SEES TUMULT

Expected to Lay Out Program For Work Today

Washington, Dec. 29.—Members of the commission named by President Wilson under the strike settlement agreement to investigate wages and prices in the soft coal industry conferred with Secretary Tumulty today at the White House. The commission is expected to lay out a program for its work at the meetings during the day.

GERMANS DISCUSS NOTE OF ENTENTE

Brief Session Held in the Hun Capital

Berlin, Dec. 26.—The entente's last note, demanding the signing of the protocol to the peace treaty, was discussed by the cabinet today in a brief session. In official circles the note, it is said, is regarded as further evidence that the supreme council is playing politics. Government officials point out what is believed to be a contradiction in the note, which in its introductory sentence refers to the absence of American ratification and subsequently mentions the possibility that the United States may be definitely omitted from the list of ratifying powers. The Berlin government has already indicated it does not propose to construe America's failure to participate as entitling Germany to concessions, especially as the cabinet is fully aware that ratification by three powers is all the sanction needed. It is evident the government is determined to have the entente demand for indemnity tonnage for German warships sunk at Scapa Flow precisely indicated. Opinion in cabinet circles today was that Germany would be justified in yielding to the entente demand for signing the main protocol only if a parallel document covering the tonnage issue specifically should also be included in the final ratification of the treaty. Official quarters expect the arrival of a commission of experts to visit Hansa and Baltic ports to determine the nature and quantity of harbor dock equipment at Germany's disposal. It also is stated that Kurt von Lersner, head of the German delegation at Versailles, and his associates were cut off from all communication with Berlin from Monday that the French foreign office offered the German representatives neither a substitute telephone nor a telegraph service.

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THE SHOOTING AFFAIR AT MARION

Prisoner Not Expected to Recover. Officer Resting Easy Last Night

Marion, Dec. 26.—Sheriff Rowell of Marion county is in a hospital at Florence from four pistol wounds and Mayo Carmichael, a negro, is believed to be fatally injured, as a result of trouble which occurred yesterday at Sellers when the officer went to arrest the negro.

On the night before Christmas Chief of Police Bass of Sellers went to a negro entertainment to arrest some negroes on charges not stated. The Carmichael negro fired on the policeman five times but did not hit him. A warrant was taken out for Carmichael and on Christmas day Sheriff Rowell with several deputies went to arrest Carmichael. The negro was found in a house and the sheriff went in and called upon him to surrender. At the time the sheriff went in the house the negro had both his hands in his pockets and upon the sheriff speaking to him the negro pulled a pistol out of his pocket and commenced firing on him, four of his shots taking effect. The sheriff pulled his pistol and shot the negro once. The negro ran out of the house into the woods, but was afterwards captured and taken to the jail at Marion, where he is now in a serious condition. It is not expected that he will recover. Sheriff Rowell was brought to Marion and taken to the hospital in Florence. The physicians there report that he has an even chance for recovery.

MONTENEGRO RE-NEWS PROTEST

Aggressions of Serbia Laid Before Council

Paris, Dec. 27.—Further protests relative to Serbian operations on Montenegro have been sent to the peace conference by the Montenegrin government.

WORLD "DRY" MOVEMENT

Woman's Christian Temperance Union Has Plan

Chicago, Dec. 27.—As a step in the world "dry" movement, Miss Anna Adams Gordon, president of the Women's Christian Temperance union, plans an European, Oriental, African and South American trip. It was announced today. Passports for Europe have already been obtained for April.

EXTRADITION OF WILHELM 2ND

French and British Governments Will Demand Surrender

Paris, Dec. 29.—The extradition of former Emperor William of Germany will be demanded from Holland as soon as the treaty of peace becomes effective, according to the decision of the British and French governments, says The Echo de Paris.

ARREST WOOD ALCOHOL DEALERS

Three Men Face Charge of Poisoning Many People

New York, Dec. 29.—Three men faced the charge before the United States commissioner here in connection with spreading wood alcohol as whiskey through five States within the last ten days, death and blindness following in its wake. The men are Adolph Panzerli, a Manhattan wine and liquor dealer; John Romanelli, a Brooklyn undertaker, and Samuel Sabely, a Brooklyn druggist. Romanelli, according to the federal officials, is the leader in the wood alcohol traffic.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN THREATEN STRIKE

Notify Officials That They Will Not Submit to Cummins' Law

Washington, Dec. 26.—Organized railway machinists, through their president, served notice on congress today that they would not submit to enactment of the Cummins railroad bill, with its drastic anti-strike provision.

Voting more than a month ago 98 per cent of the 125,000 members of the union favored an immediate walk-out in event of the bill's passage by both houses of congress, but the result was not made known through fear that the brotherhoods might appear in the light of attempting to coerce the law making branch of the government. The machinists, according to William H. Johnston, president of the international association, are the only railway employees who have taken a strike vote, but the heads of all the brotherhoods, 14 in all, have been summoned to meet here Monday to consider pending railway legislation and fine precisely their position on the clause in the Cummins bill which would prevent strikes and put strikers in jail.

The call for the conference was issued by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, but Mr. Gompers and other labor leaders refused to discuss probable action by the brotherhood leaders. President Wilson's Christmas eve announcement that the roads would be handed back to their owners March 1 was a distinct disappointment to labor leaders, who had been pleading for a two year extension of government control. They agreed, however, that if the roads were to go back it was a good thing to let it be known.

There was no meeting today of house and senate conferees who have been assigned the task of framing a new railroad bill out of the Esch and Cummins measures. This work, however, will begin next week, in the hope of final enactment of railroad legislation some time in the next two months. The anti-strike section is known to be the main point of difference, and while it was left intact in the bill passed by the senate, house leaders frankly expressed doubt today whether the house would accept it.

COTTON ESTIMATE

Southern Congressmen Pushing An Investigation

Columbia, Dec. 26.—The investigation started in congress by the American Cotton Association regarding the last estimate of the cotton crop made by the Bureau of Crop Estimates is being actively pushed by Southern congressmen and senators and the Washington representatives of the Association, says a statement issued by J. Skottowe Wannamaker, president of the American Cotton Association, today. "Leading experts throughout the South and members of the American Cotton Association in every section insist that the crop figures issued by the government are too high. Representative J. Thomas Heflin, of Alabama, who has challenged the government's estimate of the cotton crop, which fixed the figures at 11,030,000 bales, calls attention to the fact that up to December 12th this year the ginners report showed that only 9,400,000 bales had been ginned, as against 10,281,000 bales to the same date in 1918, and 1,131,000 bales to the same date in 1917. He is seeking information from various sources in the cotton growing States to be used in the hearings before the committee on agriculture. The committee intended hearing the report from the Bureau of Crop Estimates on the 21st, but Mr. Heflin secured the postponement of this part of the hearing until January 6th, when he will have the information that he desires for use in questioning the chief of the Bureau of Crop Estimates. Mr. Heflin insists that the bureau has overestimated the crop between six and seven hundred thousand bales."

BURNED TO DEATH ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Lieutenant Poates Found Dead at Camp Jackson

Columbia, Dec. 27.—First Lieut. Charles T. Poates, commanding officer at the remount station at Camp Jackson, was found burned to death early Christmas morning in a fire which destroyed the officers' barracks in which he was sleeping. The fire was discovered at 3:15 o'clock and had then reached a state which prevented any attempt at rescue. The building and another small frame building adjoining it were totally destroyed and Lieutenant Poates' body when discovered was burned almost beyond recognition. Lieutenant Poates is supposed to have been the only person quartered in the barracks at the time.

Camp officials classed the death as one "under suspicious circumstances" and a board of officers has been appointed to investigate the case, probably making their report this morning. Several theories as to the circumstances of Lieutenant Poates' death have been suggested; that the fire and death were both accidental, or that he was murdered and the barracks set on fire to hide the deed. No cause for the fire, however, had been discovered yesterday and the camp officials were not willing to say whether Lieutenant Poates was burned to death or murdered before the fire reached him.

Lieutenant Poates was in process of checking up and turning over to another officer all government property and funds under his charge when he died. All of the government funds had been turned over with the exception of about \$300 but none of the government property had been checked up. Under the government regulations another board of officers will have to be appointed to check up the dead officer's accounts.

NAVAL DECORATIONS REFUSED

Secretary Daniels to Act on Knight Board Decision

Washington, Dec. 27.—A revised report on naval decorations which is to be made by the Knight board after a survey of all the facts, probably will be accepted Secretary Daniels said. The secretary added he rather would forward the report to the president or act for the president in accepting it.