

THE BOLL WEEVIL CONFERENCE

Sumter County Farmers Adopt Clemson College Program to Meet Conditions

The large attendance of farmers from all sections of the county and bankers and merchants and business men of this city at the Boll Weevil Conference held in the Court House Thursday was the most convincing evidence of the intelligent and earnest interest that all classes of business men are taking in the boll weevil problem and their desire and determination to maintain the agricultural prosperity of this section by the adoption and practice of methods that have been proven in other States to render profitable farming possible despite the ravages of the weevil.

The meeting was conducted by District Demonstration Agent C. A. McFadden, who briefly stated the purpose of these and similar meetings that are being held in all the counties in which weevils have appeared. He stated that he had with him several experts from Clemson College and they would in turn discuss various phases of the problem and point out methods that have been found successful in combating the weevil.

M. S. McConnell, boll weevil expert, was the first speaker on the program, and close attention was given to his remarks. It will take three years said Mr. McConnell, for the boll weevil to reach his maximum injury. Its first appearance in this county is recorded from late last fall. A severe winter will minimize the injury in 1920, but a mild winter will enable him to cause serious damage even this year. As no one can safely gamble on the weather, the only thing to do, said Mr. McConnell, is to play the game safe. The first prerequisite, he said, was to live at home. Another suggestion was that cotton stalks from this year's crop be turned under before frost in the fall. This, he said, would kill many of the weevils and would destroy his source of food. Mr. McConnell was very positive in his warning against the use of poison. No poison, he stated, has been discovered up to this time that will do the work. The subject was being investigated and due notice would be given the farmers by the department. He warned farmers against buying any ginning machine until it had been approved by the department of agriculture. The speaker said that it was essential to plant an early variety of cotton, and one also that would produce squares late in the fall. The square is the favorite food of the weevil, he said. Cotton should be forced to an early maturity.

E. E. Hall, extension division cotton breeder, urged the use of pure bred seed of an early maturing variety. It had been found from tests that on well free land the Cleveland big boll would make best, and that on well infested lands the Dixie Triumph did well. If long staple cotton were planted, he urged the use of Wobber 49 or 52. This seed, however, is scarce. Unless they could be obtained, he advised against planting long staple. This is no time to plant cotton on poor land, he said. Seed is a most important factor in successful farming under present conditions and too much care could not be used in their selection.

In reply to a question he said that he advised strongly against the planting of King and Simpkins cotton—these varieties produce full crop practically at one time and do not furnish forage late in the season to supply food for the weevils, thus forcing them to be safe. He advised early planting, to attack the bolls and destroy the part of the crop that would otherwise be wasted against too early planting before danger of frost killing the crop is past. He advised planting in three and a half foot to four foot rows and then ten to fourteen inches on the row, with two stalks to the hill. In regard to fertilization he advised putting at least three-fourths of the fertilizer down before planting and the balance as a top dressing early in the season—apply nitrate of soda about the time the plants begin putting on fruit. He does not advise picking up the forms, unless labor is plentiful and cheap.

The subject of sweet potato planting was covered by George E. Prince, extension division horticulturist, who declared at the outset that the way to begin sweet potato planting was by building adequate storage houses along the lines suggested by Clemson col-

lege. Without the storage houses the crop would amount to nothing in a commercial way, as buyers would not take banded potatoes for shipping. He cited the experience of J. L. Thomas of Cades, who made a profit on four acres of potatoes last year of \$1,216.17. Mr. Thomas kept accurate accounts of his expenditures and receipts and his figures are on record at Clemson college.

Community storage houses should be located on the railroad but individual houses would be profitable on the farm if made to hold five hundred to a thousand bushels. He stated that curing the potatoes caused a loss of about ten per cent. in weight, but no appreciable loss in bulk, and as they are sold by the bushel there was no money loss in curing. Experience had proven that to make potatoes profitable and readily marketed crop the people of a county should all plant one variety. The Porto Rico is the most prolific and the most popular on the market, therefore the variety to be preferred in this section. The Nancy Hall is a good potato but not as profitable as the Porto Rico.

Mr. Fred L. Harkey, State Marketing Agent, United States Department of Agriculture, made an interesting and instructive talk on marketing. He said that marketing has been and is a question which has been difficult of solution, and many farmers have been heard to exclaim that it would be to no advantage to plant peanuts, potatoes and the like, if no way could be found to sell them at a profit. Mr. Harkey assured the farmers present at the meeting today that a market could be found provided the game was played right. Southern sweet potatoes were growing in favor in the North, and that if farmers would offer them in car lots, properly graded and cured, and taken from approved storage warehouses, he guaranteed the market price for them in almost any quantity. He declared that the farmer must look beyond his local market, which was quickly glutted.

After discussing the marketing of sweet potatoes he took up the culture and marketing of peanuts. He said that the peanut industry is still in its infancy. This season they have been selling from \$200 to \$225 a ton, and all the crop, practically, is being taken by shellers; the oil mills being almost out of the market as they find that they cannot crush peanuts profitably when the price exceeds \$125 a ton. Nevertheless the peanut is a profitable crop for this section and should have a place in the crop rotation to be practiced. The production of peanuts averages less than a ton to the acre, although the yield is frequently much greater on good land.

Prof. Lewis made an interesting talk on live stock and stressed the point that all the crops advocated by the previous speakers were classed as soil robbing crops, as they were taken off the land. Consequently to maintain and increase the productivity of our lands it is absolutely necessary to keep live stock. Live stock, properly managed afforded a money crop and the cheapest means of marketing several other crops produced on the farm, while at the same time increasing the fertility of the land. To breed live stock profitably the farms must be under fence and permanent pastures must be established. Hogs cannot be raised in a pen at a profit, nor can cattle be made to pay their way if they are kept in a lot and fed on concentrates. Grazing must be provided so that they can make their own living: Rape, rye, velvet beans, corn and peas furnish profitable grazing crops the greater part of the year.

Mr. I. C. Strauss, as the representative of the bankers of Sumter, was requested by Mr. McFadden to discuss the question of rural credits, a matter in which all are interested. Mr. Strauss said in substance that as a result of the two years of unexampled prosperity that this section had enjoyed the banks as well as the farmers were in better financial condition than ever before. The majority of the farmers have money or have had it—most of them have had sufficient money in these two years to have paid off practically all their debts and leave them a surplus. As a result of this condition the bankers would, when asked for loans not only ask what the money would be used for, but the additional question, "What have you done with the money you have had?" If the answer showed that the money had been used for farm improvements or wise investment, then there would be no difficulty in finding the money to supply the needs of customers, but if the money has been wastefully squandered then the bankers would have to be very careful in extending credits, for they are merely the custodians of the funds entrusted to them by their customers and stockholders. The banks of Sumter felt that there was no necessity for a panic or undue apprehension by the people of this section. The boll weevil problem could be solved by diversification and intelligent marketing methods through cooperation. The banks are prepared and will take care of all reasonable needs of their customers and would back them up while they were working out a system of farming that would preserve and enlarge the prosperity of this section.

Mr. McFadden read the Clemson College boll weevil program and then appointed a committee to take this program under consideration for amendment or amplification with a view of having the meeting adopt it. The committee as appointed consisted of farmers and business men. Mr. I. C. Strauss acting as chairman. The committee reported the adoption of the program with only minor changes and the meeting voted unanimously to adopt the program as recommended as follows:

Per plow (25 acres):
7-10 acres cotton; in no case to exceed 50 per cent of the land cultivated.
8 acres corn, beans and peas.
3 acres oats and peas.
1 acre sweet potatoes.
1 acre sorghum cane for syrup.
2-5 acres peanuts or tobacco.
Garden, orchards, poultry and bees sufficient to supply each family with the products.

Livestock.

1. A sow to each plow and for every family a cow.
2. Elimination of all scrub sires in livestock production.
(a) Organization of a Bull Association; expansion of present association.
(b) Every farmer to join the National "Better Sires, Better Stock" crusade as quickly as he can qualify.
3. Without the growing on the farm of sufficient feds and pasture crops, no livestock production is profitable.
4. Feed steers where possible to run them on velvet bean fields.

General.
1. The organization of an association of farmers and other business men to look after the standardization, preparation and marketing of the additional money crops recommended above for this county. (Where this has not already been done.)
2. The expansion of the State and national cotton warehouse systems so as to take care of the warehouse needs in this county.
3. Organization of association for cooperation and expansion of warehouse system.
4. That all farmers and business men form cotton associations.

Hon. R. I. Manning who was called on expressed his gratification at the large attendance and the earnest and optimistic spirit of the meeting. He said that from observation in the weevil infested sections, which he had visited, the greatest danger was panic and loss of the fighting spirit that can and has won out against the weevil. He told the meeting that the bankers of the State were solidly behind the farmers and to assist them in quickly and successfully adopting new crops to supplement the greatly reduced cotton crop. An expert in peanut and tobacco culture would be assigned to Sumter, Florence and Lee counties to advise and instruct those who wished to take up these new crops. There was also the probability that a special agent would be employed to work in Sumter county. After the meeting adjourned a large number of bulletins were distributed.

Fighting the State Tax Commission.

Columbia, Jan. 16.—A bill to repeal the present tax commission act and to create both a State tax commission and county tax commissions, has been prepared by Senator Shelor, of Oconee, and is being introduced in the State senate. The aim of the new bill is to "obtain a fair and equitable assessment of the property of the State for taxation."

The county tax commissions would each have three members, for each county of the State. The State commission would have seven members. The county commissioners would be appointed by the governor, with the approval of the senate, one of the three members to serve for one year, one for two years and one for three years. The members would be subject to removal at the hands of the governor. All the members would be of different callings.

After the county commissions are formed their chairmen would meet in Columbia and elect the State commission, of seven members, one from each congressional district. The chairmen of the county commissions would decide the basis on which property would be assessed.

Senator Shelor's bill provides that the State tax commission shall have an office in the city of Columbia. The chairman of the commission would be known as the State Tax Commissioner. His salary would not exceed \$2,500. The secretary of the commission would receive a salary not in excess of \$1,700, according to the new bill.

The bill provides that the county tax commissions shall meet the first Tuesday of every March. The county auditor shall be secretary of the county commission. The new bill provides for the abolition of the county boards of assessors and boards of equalization. The county commissions provides that real estate shall be assessed only in those years when the law requires returns on real estate, except in case of improvements to property. Appeals from the county commissions would be made to the State tax commission.

The bill also provides that the county commissions shall each appoint one canvasser for each county, to ascertain what property is escaping proper taxation. Original jurisdiction is with the county commission, under this new bill; appellate jurisdiction with the State commission. Senator Shelor was one of the opponents of the tax commission last year, voting in favor of the bill to repeal the commission. His new bill would abolish the present tax commission and put original jurisdiction in the hands of the county commissions.

It is stated by legislators that this bill will have to originate with the house. Senator Shelor has no definite plans as to when he will have the measure introduced, though its draft has been completed.

Farm Loan Association.

At the meeting of the Concord Farm Loan Association held on Tuesday the 13th at the Concord school house it was decided to amend the charter to include all of Sumter county, and the meetings will hereafter be held at the residence of Mr. T. J. Kirven, the secretary-treasurer of the association. Any one desiring to secure a loan through the association should have his application in the hands of the secretary before Tuesday, January 27th, at 3 o'clock. There will be a meeting of this association at that time, and there will be no more meetings of the association after that until September. These loans are being made to the farmers at the rate of 5-1-2 per cent interest. The association was organized in the spring of 1918 with loans totaling \$37,000. It now has loans of \$150,000.

In The Recorder's Court.

Burgess West forfeited a bond of \$3 for leaving car on street without lights.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS ORGANIZED

All the Allied Powers Had Place in the Picture Except United States

Paris, Jan. 16.—The representatives of France, Great Britain, Italy, Greece, Belgium, Spain, Japan, Rortugal and Brazil, members of the council of the League of Nations, met in the French foreign office at 10 o'clock this morning for the first meeting of the league. The council was organized at 10.30 by electing Leon Bourgeois, chairman and confirming the choice of Sir Eric Drummond, of Great Britain, as secretary. The first official act of the council was the appointment of a commission to trace upon the spot the frontier of the territory of the Saare Basin.

In Favor of Inheritance Tax.

Columbia, Jan. 15.—Gov. Cooper will send to the legislature within the next few days a message dealing with the subject of additional State revenue. It is understood he is considering some form of inheritance tax bill, which he will discuss in his message to the solons. It is understood, the governor is committed to some form of inheritance tax.

In his annual message to the legislature the chief executive stated that within a short time he would send a further message in this subject of additional revenues for the State, and it is now understood that he is beginning the preparation of this message. It is understood that a proposed draft of the inheritance tax bill has been made and that this will probably be introduced in one of the legislative branches within the next week or so.

An inheritance tax bill would provide a tax on inheritances, based probably on a graduated scale, low for small inheritances and increasing in proportion to the amount of money inherited.

The State tax commission in its annual report suggested such a tax, and it is understood that a large number of the legislators are also in favor of it.

The First National Bank.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank was held on the 13th inst., at which a large percentage of the stock was represented in person.

The report of the management showed that the year 1919 was the most successful in the history of its experience. The following directors were elected:

Neill O'Donnell, H. D. Barnett, Geo. D. Shore, Archie China, H. N. Forester, Geo. F. Epperson, W. B. Upshur, John D. Lee and O. L. Yates.

Mr. R. D. Lee on account of his health asked to be excused from further services as a member of the board, and his son, Mr. John D. Lee was elected to fill the vacancy caused by his resignation. We regret that the health of Mr. Lee made it necessary for him to sever his connection with the bank, as he was one of the most active and attentive members of the board.

Mr. O. L. Yates, the cashier, who has since boyhood was elected a member of the board.

The vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Lee who was vice president has not been filled. Mr. Neill O'Donnell was reelected president. All of the other officers and employees were continued as follows: O. L. Yates, cashier; J. W. Kinard, assistant cashier; J. Doar, Jr., teller; J. E. Brooks, book-keeper; T. M. Monaghan, book-keeper and Mrs. Florence B. Walling, collector.

In the report of bank elections printed yesterday it was stated, by a mistake made in this office, that Messrs. H. D. Barnett and Geo. D. Shore had been elected vice presidents. No election was held for vice president, this matter being deferred.

The Columbia Canal Litigation.

Columbia, Jan. 16.—The long-pending "Columbia canal case" is to be tried in Columbia during the spring, according to report of the canal commission made to the general assembly and laid on the desks of the legislators today. After reviewing the work of the commission during the past several months, the report says: "A survey and report on the canal property has been made by the engineers, and the commission feels that it can reasonably assure your honorable body that the disposition of the litigation in the State courts pertaining to the present case can be made at such time during the spring terms of the court of common pleas for Richland county as in the opinion of counsel is most available."

The canal commission also reports that it hopes to soon complete the investigation, authorized by an act of the legislature of 1918, of the arrangement of the Columbia Railway, Gas & Electric Co., with the Parr Shoals company and other power companies. "We have made such progress in this connection," says the report, "as the circumstances permitted. It is possible that this investigation can be completed and a report upon the result made to your honorable body at an early date."

The legislature of 1919 appropriated ten thousand dollars for the canal commission. The report to the legislature shows that of this amount all but \$1,563.73 has been spent. The largest expenditures of the commission have been attorneys fees, the report showing that \$2,450 has been paid to J. Fraser Lyon and \$2,400 to E. L. Abney, assistant counsels, and engineers fees, the commission having paid \$2,500 to the Ludlow engineers for their recent survey of the property. An audit cost \$317 and other expenses were per diem costs and office expenditures.

Brunswick, Ga., Jan. 17.—Mrs. William Rockefeller, wife of the New York financier, died today at Jekyll Island, her winter home.

REGINALD DEKOVEN DEAD

Famous American Composer Stricken With Apoplexy

Chicago, Jan. 16.—Reginald DeKoven, the American operatic composer and conductor, died here early today of apoplexy. He was born in Middletown, Conn., in 1861.

STATE FINANCES

Startling Recommendations Expected From Budget Commission

Columbia, Jan. 15.—Startling recommendations with regard to State finances are expected to come with the report of the budget commission which will be laid on the desks of the South Carolina legislators within the next few days. It is understood the commission will suggest the cutting off of many appropriations that have been regarded as essential in past years and that several state departments will be abolished if the report of the commission is adopted.

Governor Cooper gave some prophecy of the budget commission's financial program for 1920 when he stated to the general assembly, in a side remark during the delivery of his message, that the budget commission was recommending a million dollars for public school purposes. The governor stated in this connection that this million would be used in carrying out the affairs of the department of education, but without providing any increase in teachers' salaries. It is understood the budget commission will urge larger appropriations for teachers' salaries.

NO MUTINY AT TOULON

Report of Revolt By French Troops Denied

Paris, Jan. 16.—Reports that French naval forces and troops at Toulon have mutinied has not been confirmed and nothing relative to disorders is there known at Marseilles.

BOLSHEVIKS CAPTURE ODESSA

Lenine's Army Has Taken Possession of Black Sea Port

Basle, Jan. 16.—Odessa, the chief port of Russia on the Black Sea has been occupied by the Bolsheviki, according to newspaper dispatches received here.

Washington, Jan. 16.—United States marines and Haitian gendarmes yesterday repelled an attack on Port Prince, Haiti capital, by three hundred bandits, more than half of whom were killed, wounded or captured. Two marines were wounded.

Marriage Licenses.

White George Kneec of Batesburg and Sibb Davis, Sumter. Colored: Bell Richburg of Horatio and Essie Ellington, Rembert. Charlie Franklin, Lynchburg and Mary Andrews, of Elliott.

Paris, Jan. 16.—So far only forty-three persons of the four hundred and seventy-four, on board the steamer Afrique, which foundered in the Bay of Biscay last week are known to have escaped.

GET READY FOR "FLU"

Keep Your Liver Active, Your System Purified and Free From Colds by Taking Calotabs, the Naures' Calomel Tablets, are Delightful, Safe and Sure.

Physicians and Druggists are advising their friends to keep their systems purified and their organs in perfect working order as a protection against the return of influenza. They know that a clogged up system and a lazy liver favor colds, influenza and serious complications.

To cut short a cold overnight and to prevent serious complications take one Calotab at bedtime with a swallow of water—that's all. No salts, no nausea, no griping, no sickening after effects. Next morning your cold has vanished, your liver is active, your system is purified and refreshed and you are feeling fine with a hearty appetite for breakfast. Eat what you please—no danger. Calotabs are sold only in original sealed packages, price thirty-five cents. Every druggist is authorized to refund your money if you are not perfectly delighted with Calotabs.—(Adv.)

SINN FEINERS ARE ELECTED

Seventy-five Per Cent of Their Candidates Win

Dublin, Jan. 17.—Returns from the municipal elections show that generally, except in northern Ireland, approximately seventy-five per cent of the candidates supported by the Sinn Fein and labor elements were successful.

A SPICY DEATH

Three Firemen Are Killed in Cincinnati

Cincinnati, Jan. 17.—Three firemen were killed and a score of persons injured when an explosion blew out the wall of the Newton Spice Company's building, during a fire this morning causing a loss of a hundred thousand dollars.

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Reference: Any bank in Petersburg, Va. or Greenville, N. C.

The National Bank of South Carolina

of Sumter, S. C.

Resources \$2,500,000.

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Give us the Pleasure of Serving YOU

C. G. ROWLAND, President

EARLE ROWLAND, Asst. Cashier

H. L. MCCOY W. Y. YEADON

1002 New Accounts for 1919

This is a record of which we feel very proud. We hope to increase this for 1920, and judging by the way they are coming in so far we will, but we are very reasonable folks and if our friends only do as well by us as they did last year, we will say, "Thank you."

The First National Bank

SUMTER, S. C.

NEILL O'DONNELL, President

O. L. YATES, Cashier

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We have no agents or branch stores.