

### Cotton Crop Condition

New York Journal of Commerce Reports Show That There Has Been Deterioration During Month

New York, Oct. 29.—The New York Journal of Commerce will have the following to say in its issue tomorrow regarding the condition of the 1920 cotton crop.

Returns received from nearly 800 special correspondents of this journal, under an average date of October 23, indicate that despite the almost uniformly favorable weather which has prevailed during the greater part of October over a large portion of the cotton belt, there has been a deterioration of 4.5 from last month's per cent condition of 63.9. This, however, compares with a loss in 1919 of 8.7, from a condition figure of 55.8 per cent.

"In 1918 a small increase—10.3 per cent—was reported, although in the year preceding that cotton condition fell 5.7 per cent, or the past ten years the average deterioration has been 2.7 per cent picking, while not up to the general average for recent years, is a little ahead of last year, being estimated at 89 per cent, against 65 per cent a year ago. This compares with 82 per cent picked in 1918, 73 per cent the year previous and 84 per cent in 1916.

Considering the backwardness of the 1920 crop, this showing is rather better than anticipated, although it leaves nearly one-third of the crop to be gathered and, therefore, still in danger of frosts. A careful analysis of the returns shows this year's cotton crop to have been one of the most uneven ever reviewed.

"In no one state has cotton made wholly favorable progress. Practically throughout the growing season returns from reliable sources have shown often in the same locality, good cotton, well grown with normal fruitage, while elsewhere the plant has been either overgrown and rank or undersize and poorly fruited. At not a few points cotton is reported almost a total failure. This has increased the difficulty of determining the size of the crop, and, in the opinion of many competent observers, the final yield will remain a matter for conjecture until picking has been completed.

"Taken by states the heaviest loss in per cent condition is shown in Florida, which deteriorated 10; Georgia, also fared badly, losing 8; Mississippi, 7.6; Alabama, 6.1, and Louisiana, 5.6. In North Carolina and South Carolina losses were small, 2 and 3.7, respectively, with Texas, 3.3 lower, against a loss last year of 13.5. Arkansas also deteriorated 3.3, against 7.8 a year ago. Tennessee showed the smallest loss, 1.4, while Missouri registered the only gain, 7, which compares with a recession last year of 8.3. As to the amount picked Louisiana heads the list with 90 per cent; Florida comes next with 85, Alabama 80 and Mississippi 73. The Texas crop is 77 per cent gathered. Missouri is the most backward, showing only 23 per cent, against 43 per cent last year; Tennessee has 33 per cent and Oklahoma 39 per cent; North Carolina and South Carolina fell short of last year's record with 42 per cent and 68 per cent, respectively, but Arkansas reports 53 per cent, against 48 per cent a year earlier.

"According to an overwhelming majority of returns weevils have continued their destructiveness and in large areas damage has exceeded earlier expectations, hence little or no top crop is likely.

"A recurrence here and there, notably in Texas and Oklahoma, of excessive rains and cloudy, showery weather is causing a lowering of grades, which in conjunction with the present low prices of cotton and scarcity of pickers is expected to induce considerable abandonment. Many correspondents say that very little low grade cotton will be picked this year. In Georgia, the Carolinas and Alabama the incessant rains of July and August and parts of September were followed by a month of drought, which has had the effect in numerous instances of reducing earlier estimates of final yield. Nearly everywhere complaints are heard of the fall in the price of the staple, and the claim is made that cotton sold at present levels will bring only about half the cost of production. Correspondents in many parts of the cotton belt predict that unless the labor situation improves and some measure is introduced to more successfully combat the weevil menace cotton acreage next year is pretty sure to be heavily cut. At present writing very little cotton is being marketed. In a few isolated cases farmers are said to be refusing to pick until market conditions improve, but for the most part cotton is being picked and stored in warehouses pending an advance in prices.

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### Troops Guard Polls

In Cuba Presidential Election is Held Under Difficulties

Havana, Nov. 1.—Cuba is voting for a president and troops are guarding the polls to prevent threatened disorder.

### Fishing Boat Race

American and Canadian Contenders Start Second Race Today

Hull, Nov. 1.—The Esperanto and Delawarean, American and Canadian contestants for racing championship of the international fishing fleets, started on second race about nine o'clock.

On the last lap Canadian entry leading with Esperanto gaining rapidly.

### Straw Vote For President

Nation-Wide Ballot by Rexall Stores Indicate That Harding Will Have a Walk Over

The straw vote conducted by the more than eight thousand Rexall Drug stores located in all the towns of any size in all the states gives a decided majority to the Republican ticket and indicates the election of Harding and Coolidge. In every state the majority for or against Harding is very decided, except in W. Virginia where Harding and Cox run neck and neck with only a few votes in Harding's favor. According to the Rexall straw vote the electoral vote will be as follows:

States	Harding	Cox	Elec. Vote
Alabama	12	12	12
Arkansas	9	9	9
Arizona	3	3	3
California	13	13	13
Colorado	6	6	6
Connecticut	7	7	7
Delaware	3	3	3
Florida	6	6	6
Georgia	14	14	14
Idaho	4	4	4
Illinois	29	29	29
Indiana	15	15	15
Iowa	13	13	13
Kansas	10	10	10
Kentucky	13	13	13
Louisiana	10	10	10
Maine	6	6	6
Maryland	8	8	8
Massachusetts	18	18	18
Michigan	15	15	15
Minnesota	12	12	12
Mississippi	10	10	10
Missouri	18	18	18
Montana	4	4	4
Nebraska	8	8	8
Nevada	3	3	3
New Hampshire	4	4	4
New Jersey	14	14	14
New Mexico	3	3	3
New York	45	45	45
North Carolina	12	12	12
North Dakota	5	5	5
Ohio	24	24	24
Oklahoma	10	10	10
Oregon	5	5	5
Pennsylvania	38	38	38
Rhode Island	5	5	5
South Carolina	9	9	9
South Dakota	5	5	5
Tennessee	12	12	12
Texas	20	20	20
Utah	4	4	4
Vermont	4	4	4
Virginia	12	12	12
Washington	7	7	7
West Virginia	8	8	8
Wisconsin	13	13	13
Wyoming	3	3	3
Total	364	167	531

**Puritans Used No Wedding Ring.**  
The Puritans of the seventeenth century used no ring at the wedding ceremony, as they considered it "a pagan symbol and superstitious contrivance." All they required was that the man and woman should join hands when stating their purpose to live together in wedlock.

**Horror-bite.**  
Calico Rock Progress (reporting illustrated lecture). "You would be horror-stricken to see some of the pictures that are full of blood and horror."—Boston Transcript.

**Regret.**  
There is such a thing as noble regret, and there is one which is ignoble, for there may be virtue and vice even in a memory. Beware of "chewing the cud" of past wrong doing.—Darnton.

**West Australia's Vast Size.**  
West Australia, the largest state in the continent, has an area of over 975,000 square miles.

**Men Not Practical.**  
Men are sentimental gossips. They are not practical enough. Women are. Since the beginning of time it's women that have had to do the practical things.—George Bernard Shaw.

**Misplaced Sympathy.**  
Many a wife dusts the billiard chalk from her husband's coat and sheds tears of sympathy because of the late hours he must spend at his desk close to a whitewashed wall.—Exchange.

**Africa's Big Rivers.**  
Of the African rivers the Zambesi, 2,000 miles in length, is the largest river in South Africa; the Orange river comes next with 1,200 miles and the Limpopo next with 900 miles.

**Submarine Coal Mines.**  
There are many submarine coal deposits off the British Isles, but so far they are not much worked. The tunnels of the mines at Whitehaven extend some four miles from shore under the Irish sea, however, and there also is some submarine coal mining at Bolness near the Firth of Forth and Monkwearmouth in Durham.

**Brought Down to Date.**  
"Man wants but little here below nor wants that little long." Is what they sing some years ago but it's now another song. The words we use are different quite, though fully as sublime. "Man wants everything in sight, and wants it all the time."

**Tungsten in Portugal.**  
Tungsten generally is called wolfram in Portugal and is sold by the mines as tungsten trioxide on the basis of its richness in tungstic acid. The production has been from 900 to 1,500 tons a year, as near as can be ascertained.

### CUT OUT THE EAVESDROPPER

New Device Is Expected to Eliminate "Listening In" on Wireless Messages.

Successful demonstrations of a new wireless invention, which marks a step toward the secrecy of wireless telephone and telegraph messages, have taken place in Great Britain, and Signor Marconi is at present conducting further tests at sea in his yacht Electra with a view to its wider application.

Details of the invention are secret, but it may be stated that, according to the Continental edition of the London Daily Mail, an apparatus has been devised which, by what experts call an "electrical method of concentration," propagates the electric wireless wave in a "beam" in any desired direction and in that direction only. Hitherto the electrical waves sent out from wireless stations have spread out in all directions and all who "listened in" could hear. The new invention will mark the end of the wireless "eavesdropper." When it is perfected a wireless station will be able to send out Morse or spoken messages which will be heard only by those for whom they are intended.

The new apparatus which is being worked at an experiment station in Great Britain with a short wave length, has recently been demonstrated by a number of experts who expressed the greatest interest in the discovery.

It is known that German wireless research has been lately closely directed to this problem of the "eavesdropper," for the Germans realized that we were able to pick up with our listening sets much valuable information about Zeppelin movements during the war.

### HOW DOLLAR WORKS FOR YOU

**Benjamin Franklin's Fund of \$5,000 Grew to \$431,383 in One Hundred Years.**

How the dollar invested works for the individual himself has been best illustrated by that first great American teacher of thrift, Benjamin Franklin. In 1791, he bequeathed \$1,000 (\$5,000) to the commonwealth of Massachusetts and to the city of Boston as a mark of his appreciation for having appointed him as agent in England at the "handsome" salary of £2,000 (\$10,000) and to make his bequest really valuable with his great foresight, Franklin provided in his will that this £1,000 should be put out at 5 per cent interest for one hundred years; that at the end of that time 31-131 of the fund accumulated should again be put out at interest for another hundred years and then the fund be divided one-fourth to Boston and three-fourths to the state.

Let us show how well that £1,000 of Franklin's has worked. At the end of the first hundred years it had grown to \$431,383.62. It was then divided in accordance with the will; \$320,300.48 was set aside for "public work" and \$102,083.14 was started on its course of earning interest for another hundred years. That was in 1891. January 1, 1918, this sum had grown to \$267,805.15 and at this rate of increase the fund should amount to at least six million dollars when the second period is completed, and may be considerable more.—World's Work.

**Title Fits the Duties.**  
The colored caretaker of a small town library boasted the title of "Custodian," which he had embroidered on the front of his cap, a source of lasting pride. Having marked diplomatic ability, he deserved a four-syllable title. One morning while he was sweeping off the front walk a wandering loafer, also of African extraction, paused in front of him and scrutinized the cap closely.

"Cuss-todian!" he ejaculated. "Down whom I came from they call common niggers like you janitahs." "Ye-es," observed the chon-hued diplomat, pausing a moment from his labors, "dat's all right in Memphis. But on a job like dis, 'custodian' is mo' appropriate. You see, you had to cuss half de patrons and toady to de rest of 'em."—Judge.

**Not All Blind.**  
Two charming sisters are engaged to two brothers, and their neighbors have been interested in this dual love affair. The young girls live in the second flat of a house on the south side of the street, and the other day the elder sister was stopped in the street by the young scion of the family who occupy the second flat in the house just opposite.

"Oh, Miss Miggs," said the boy, "my papa said last night that someone ought to tell you to pull down the blinds, 'cause if love is blind, the neighbors are not!"—London Tit-Bits.

**From Ear to Ear.**  
Willie was away from home for the first time, staying with some friends. He was allowed to "sit up" for dinner. The servant came round with a plate of slices of melon, and the hostess noticed Willie hesitate about helping himself. "Don't you like melon?" asked his hostess encouragingly. "Very much, thank you," replied Willie, "only they make your ears so wet."

**On the Dry Bathing Beach.**  
Mabel: "That's a lovely bathing suit you're wearing. But aren't you afraid water will take the color out?"  
Joan: "I might, so I always have it dry cleaned."—Detroit News.

### SAW MIRAGE ON SIDEWALK

College Professor Records Interesting Observation He Made on the Streets of a City.

A curious case of sidewalk mirage was described by Prof. F. W. McNair of Michigan College of Mining. Prof. McNair wrote in Science:

"I was walking eastward on a cement sidewalk on a street running nearly east and west, and moving up a moderate grade which joins a nearly level stretch of walk. On reaching a point which brought my eye slightly above the level portion, and at which normally the level stretch would have been seen in its entire length, but much foreshortened, I observed instead what appeared to be a stretch of clear dark water covering the entire width of the walk and brilliantly reflecting moving persons and other objects in sight beyond it.

"The sky was clear, the air cool, the sun high. It was about 3 o'clock p. m., local time. There was a moderate breeze. The angle of observation was very small, probably not above three degrees. A step or two either east or west, and the water was gone, but within the proper limits, the illusion was definite and continuing. The weather bureau report for the day indicated that approximately 30 feet above the spot where the mirage was observed the air temperature was about 60 degrees F. and the humidity about 63 degrees."

The resemblance between conditions here described and those which produce the mirage on the plains is obvious.

### BELIEVE DEVIL RULES EARTH

Probably Quickest Religious Faith Is That of Tribe of Kurdish and Arabian Blood.

One of the strangest religious sects in the world is known as the Yezedi, a race of mixed Kurdish and Arabian blood. They worship the devil, and believe he will rule the earth for 10,000 years, 4,000 of this number having already passed. On the theory that Jesus is good, and will not harm them, they give most of their devotion and sacrifice to the devil who, they assert, will at the end of the next 6,000 years, be put into hell, where he will weep so hard he will put out the fires, and then will be pardoned and given back his rightful place in heaven.

The Yezedi believe that there were 71 Adams and a similar number of Eves, and that the originals once had a great dispute as to who was the most important, the man or the woman. To prove the matter the women spit in one great jar and the men in another, and the jars were the sealed for nine months. At the end of that period they were opened, and from the women's jar leaped a pile of snakes and worms, while from the men's jar came a beautiful boy and girl. In spite of their strange beliefs they are very industrious, honest, hospitable and kind, although steeped in dense ignorance, one phase of their religion forbidding them to learn letters.

**Words in English Language.**  
The number of English words not yet obsolete, but found in good authors, or in approved usage by correct speakers, including the nomenclature of science and the arts, does not probably fall short of 100,000, says George Perkins Marsh. Few writers or speakers use as many as 10,000 words, ordinary persons of fair intelligence not above 3,000 or 4,000. If a scholar were to be required to name, without examination, the authors whose English vocabulary was the largest, he would specify the all-embracing Shakespeare, and the all-knowing Milton. And yet in all the works of the great dramatist there seem not more than 15,000 words; in the poems of Milton not above 8,000. The whole number of Egyptian hieroglyphic symbols does not exceed 800, and the entire Italian vocabulary is said to be scarcely more extensive.

**Egg Shows Miracle.**  
One cannot find among the multitude of wonders in nature anything more marvelous than the development of an egg, writes Elsa G. Allen, in the American Forestry Magazine. Whether it be a butterfly which flourishes for a day, only to die after depositing its eggs, or a reptile which lazily leaves its eggs with only the warm sand to mother them, or a fish, like the salmon, which with incredible strength, jumps the rapids to spawn in the upper reaches of rivers, or most appealing of all a bird which builds a beautiful nest for its treasures, the egg in every case is structurally the same, and the miracle of life unfolds according to the same laws of cell division.

**Modern Words Traced to Trees.**  
While the ancient Greeks fancied that every tree was possessed of its own peculiar spirit, and nature lovers insist that trees have personalities even as men and women, it is only natural that men have paid tribute to the tree. The leaves of plants named the leaves of books, and the word "folio" traces back to "follage." The word paper comes from the old papyrus plant, and the word "Bible" is the Greek name of the plant, according to the Minneapolis Journal. The word "book" is derived from "beech," and the "codex" originally meant tree trunk. It is because men have found the tree kind friends and interesting subjects that they have been paid so much tribute.

### HAMLET MODEL YOUNG MAN

Writer Declares That Melancholy Dane Was "Perfect Lady's Perfect Gentleman."

We are told in so many words that he was a model young man. He has presented the English language with two of its stereotyped phrases for the marking of a standardized perfection; he is called "the glass of fashion and the mold of form." The utterance of these words by Ophelia is as illuminative as the words themselves. It is plain that the youthful Hamlet lives up meticulously, not only to conventional, but to feminine, to maidenly, standards of propriety and excellence. He is the perfect lady's perfect gentleman. O. W. Firkins writes in the North American Review.

But we do not need Ophelia's testimony; listen to the young man himself. His mother urges him not to return to college. "I shall in all my best obey you, Madam," he replies with a filial decorum which Samuel Richardson or Hannah More could not have mended. Observe the nature of his objections to suicide:

Oh, that the Everlasting had not fixed His canon 'gainst self-slaughter.  
He condemns the act, not because it is cowardly or simply immoral, but because it is uncanonical, unscriptural. Here is a young man in whom his catechist or confessor may rejoice. With such a person it is obviously hazardous to joke. When Horatio, his fellow student, calls himself a truant, Hamlet solemnly defends him against the charge:

I would not hear your enemy say so. Clearly this is a young collegian who never "vex the souls of deans." We see him assiduous at lectures, methodical in his notes. Shakespeare has not forgotten to inform us that he kept a note book. Within two minutes after his father's ghost has ended the appalling tale of the murder in the garden, the young prince is jotting down by moonlight an invaluable memorandum about the relations of smiles to villainy. Do I mean that Hamlet is a fool? Not at all. Hamlet has a strong mind, but its strength is shown at the outset in the docility and thoroughness of its assent to the proposition of its teachers.

### FIRST VENTURE OF LIPTON

Friend Tells How He Took Chance With Patrons of a Rundown Grocery.

Dr. J. H. Ostrander, a personal friend of Sir Thomas Lipton, told recently for the first time the story of Lipton's initial business venture, an exchange store.

Lipton's first business venture was an event in one little corner of Glasgow. He bought for a few pounds a sorry old rundown provision shop that had changed hands a score of times; everybody had failed. It was in a neighborhood where profits were meager and housewives close traders, and where sharp practice and indifferent ethics precluded credit. So when Lipton announced that he would trust any decent neighbor once all foresaw his doom.

Lipton, however, did not mean that he would carry accounts 30 days, for at this period five such accounts would have swamped him. As he himself put it: "In misfortune I will carry any decent chap till Saturday night. I will be a friend to you in spite of prevailing business rules; but if you break faith with me you will lose a friend and I will lose my business." Thus he put them on their honor. And it won; won because sympathy and fellowship dominated the boy and excited like attributes in others.

**Of the Eye of a Frog.**  
The smallest camera in the world which has actually "taken" pictures is doubtless the eye of the frog, says Boys' Life. It has been found that if a frog is kept in the dark for some time the retina of the eye, on being dissected, is found to have a purple reddish color which fades away or becomes bleached on exposure to daylight. If the eye be placed in front of a window and left there, or "exposed" for some time, and then fixed in a 4 per cent solution of alum the optogram is partially fixed and retains an inverted picture of the window. It is claimed that by a similar photographic process the last picture or image retained by the eye of a dead man or animal may be preserved.

**Natural Thermometer.**  
It was a wonderful sapphire, so it is said, that led the celebrated Doctor Sorby to the discovery of the nature of the liquid sometimes found enclosed in the cavities of crystals.

The gem in question contained a tube-shaped cavity, a quarter of an inch long and an eighteenth of an inch in diameter, which was so regular in its bore that it served, by means of the liquid partially filling it, for a thermometer. The contained liquid half-filled the bore at 50 degrees F. and completely filled it at 80 degrees. A study of the rate of expansion of the liquid led to the conclusion that it must be carbonic acid.

**A Pious Man's Consolation.**  
Dr. Lyman P. Powell gives some examples of the lengths to which petty bitterness between sects will sometimes carry men. "A visitor in a certain town which had four churches and adequately supported none asked a pillar of one poor, dying church, 'How's your church getting on?' 'Not very well,' was the reply, 'but, thank the Lord, the others are not doing any better.'"—Christian Register.

### Smuggling

Dutch Government Dead Line on German

The Hague, Oct. 31.—The Dutch government has established a line 300 yards wide along the border in an effort to curb the smuggling which has assumed tremendous proportions, particularly in foodstuffs and rubber goods going into Germany. Soldiers are constantly on watch along the dead-line but, in spite of the measures, the smuggling continues.

### Berlin Taxicabs Idle

Berlin, Oct. 31.—Taxicab and droschky drivers in Berlin, as numerous now as before the war, have so little to do that many of them stand all day at their places without a single fare. They have increased their prices 10 to 15 times the old rate but the cost of living has kept pace with the increase and some of them are in abject poverty. There are a few smart equipages, the obvious pride of the owners, but most of their vehicles present a battered, forlorn aspect.

A droschky driver, whose tall hat was dirty and broken and whose clothes were patched in many places, perked up eagerly at the prospect of a fare but when he discovered only a questioner lapsed into his customary lethargy.

### France's Birth Rate

Paris, Oct. 12.—France's efforts to raise the birthrate and lower the death rate, by means of the new ministry of hygiene, are too recent to be judged by comprehensive statistics. The importance of the problem, however, is given pessimistic prominence anew by publication of labor ministry's statistics for 1919.

There were three deaths to two births last year. In only one department, Finistere, did births exceed deaths. In a number of deaths were double and even nearly treble the number of births.

### Tyrol Joins Italy

Innsbruck, Austria, Oct. 31.—The commune of Raeechen which is bisected by the Tyrol boundary, has just voted to be incorporated into the Italian South Tyrol. Under the law the Austrian government must accede and lose this community.

Under the leadership of the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce and the Sumter County Fair association, two bodies of "livewire" farmers, merchants, manufacturers, bankers, professional men and women, real estate and insurance agents, automobile dealers, and other business men, Sumter county is going to put on what the promoters believe will be the biggest and best county fair and bazaar and gala week ever staged in this part of the country. These "never say die" as they class themselves say they will keep up the "old guard of Gamecock county, that never surrendered" boosters to any foe or to any conditions of times, and that they are going to kick gloom out of Sumter and clean out of Sumter county. That is the "Sumter spirit" that has made Sumter and Sumter county what they are.

Every business establishment that stays out of this procession of progress and boasting will undoubtedly be talked about a great deal, some who have played the role of "the quitter under fire of threatened adversity" are already being talked of with pity by numerous "live wires" who are willing to fight against adversity and just create good times any how. If never pays to hang back against an overwhelming majority. You just get into a kind of separate limelight of embarrassing and unprofitable publicity. Why not run with the crowd of "democratic, majority rule, do it any how boosters."

New York, Nov. 1.—Requests from all parts of the United States that the great westward tide of immigrants be diverted to the fastly-growing cities to rural districts to populate abandoned farms have led Commissioner of Immigration Wallis to reply that immigration authorities lack this power. Immigrants, he said, plan their destination before leaving their home countries.

Delegations from different states have called at Ellis Island to urge that steps be taken to prevent immigrants from going to certain cities. Representatives of the Chamber of Commerce of Detroit, which new census figures advanced from the ninth to the fourth largest city in the country, asked that immigrants be sent to northern Michigan. Present labor conditions in Detroit are not such as to warrant an influx of foreign labor, they declared, as many Maltese, barred from entering Canada by a recent order, have located in Detroit.