

ESTABLISHED 1844  
**The Press and Banner**  
 ABBEVILLE, S. C.

Wm. P. GREENE, Editor.

**The Press and Banner Co.**  
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1919.

**THE PLEDGE PROGRAM.**

Delegates from different sections of the county will meet in the court house today to discuss the matter of a reduction in the acreage to be planted in cotton during the present year. We have already indicated that we cannot advise the people of Abbeville County to sign the pledge which has been prepared for them in advance. We believe that in a great many instances it would be a suicidal financial policy to do so. But we indicated at the same time that we favored the plan to quit the one crop idea and thus to reduce the cotton acreage.

We favor diversification of crops, and the producing on the farms of Abbeville County all those things necessary for the farms. We believe that the meeting which is to be held today can be of great benefit to the people in Abbeville County if it will adopt a sensible program, and get down to business along correct principles.

Looking to that end, we are able to advise the farmers of Abbeville County that it will be a great mistake in our judgment for them to buy the high priced necessities of life for the purpose of producing a crop this year, and then produce nothing but cotton. Bread and meat are in greater demand in the world today than anything else. They will continue to be in demand, and will be the last farm products to go back to pre-war prices, because that demand for sometime to come will be a pressing one. Now, we would not discourage any man to hold cotton who desires to do so. His judgment is as good as ours, perhaps better; and his information may be a great deal fuller than ours, but, nevertheless, we warn the farmers of Abbeville County that if they plant cotton this year for thirty cents per pound, or twenty-five cents per pound, they are going to be disappointed. We should not be surprised to see cotton sell for twenty cents and even below twenty cents per pound, if the South this year produces a large crop, or even if it does not. The people must remember that before there can be a trade there must be a seller, and there must be a buyer, and the BUYER MUST BE ABLE TO BUY. The old world is impoverished. In the years before the war the people were fairly prosperous, at least they had enough to enable them to buy what they wanted; but now that the war is over, and industry is at a stand still, and will so remain for a long time; now that the people are returning to the places where they formerly dwelt, and are finding that they must begin all over again and rebuild their homes, and reestablish themselves in life, there will not be money to invest in cotton goods except from the most urgent necessity. Therefore, the demand will not be what it was before the war, and the farmers need not expect cotton to bring big prices in the future. They need not expect cotton to be in demand as are meat and bread, because these latter things must be had, while cotton goods may be to a great extent dispensed with.

What then is the sensible thing for every farmer, be he landlord or tenant, to do? He must look about himself and do what is best to be done. And it is useless to say, again, after it has been said so many times, that he should begin to produce some meat and bread. We believe that every farmer should plant at most two-thirds as many acres of cotton as he did last year, unless he were already producing meat and bread; that he should work this cotton properly and

properly fertilize it, in order that he may produce as much with his labor as he may. We believe that the other one-third of his crop should be in food products—something that will feed both man and beast.

Now the larger farmers and most of the land-owners are accustomed, where they farm themselves, to produce enough of these things for their own use, but the tenant farmers have not been accustomed to do so. Can we not get them to do so? Why not let every landlord in the county resolve today to give to his tenant farmer, or share-cropper, rent free one acre of land on condition that he will plant it in cane, out of which he may make syrup enough for his family for a year, and in potatoes, which will last him for a year, and at the same time make provision for keeping these potatoes? Why not let every landlord today go to every tenant farmer he has, and to every share-cropper and explain the situation to him, and warn him of the folly of the past and the danger of following old time plans in the future; and in order to encourage him and to start him off right, why may he not say to every one of these that he will furnish to him two or more hogs to be raised on shares provided the tenant or share-cropper will agree to plant certain lands in food products for the purpose of feeding these hogs?

It is idle to say that these people will not be interested in a plan of this kind. We have tried it out and we know that it works. The negro farmers of the county are a shiftless set for the most part. If they make money in the fall they spend it as becomes a lord, but when the spring-time comes few of them ever have any money. We know one who had several hundred dollars last year after paying all his obligations. He was entreated to save his money and try to take care of himself another year, but the merchants with the fine clothes and the man with other attractive things, and the allurements of pleasure have taken all his money. His employer even was called on to pay his taxes. But this same negro farmer last year took a lively interest in buying hogs and in producing his own meat and he now has enough meat saved to furnish his family for the present year. He wants to produce enough for another year, and not only he, but every other negro farmer in Abbeville County, will be glad to seize upon an opportunity to obtain his meat in this way. And the larger farmers, and the cotton-holders of Abbeville County, may induce them to do so, and at the same time reduce the cotton acreage in this county without working a hardship on anybody.

And there are white men in Abbeville County who need help along the same lines, and who should be helped. The trouble with most of us is that we look too closely towards our own interest, and never think of those who in a measure are dependent on us. We are too anxious in every trade to get the upper hand, and to make everything we do serve our own pocket-book, rather than to stop to think that the hand which guides the plow is very important to us, and deserves mighty well of all of us. The thing to do today is to encourage the man who performs the work. Carve out today some scheme which will interest this man in being a real farmer and follow it up, and make his interest identical with your own, and you will have begun to do something.

The men who meet in Abbeville County today are capable of planning and leading and financing a great constructive movement in the county which will lead to better things. They will accomplish nothing if they look too closely to their own interest. They will accomplish nothing if they adopt a program which means disaster to their neighbor. They cannot coerce the free people of Abbeville County, and, if we know them as we believe we do, they will not undertake to do so. No movement now started as a colossal bluff will do any good. The thing to do is to educate and help the people, and all the people, to do better by themselves. The object should not be alone to boost the price of cotton. We cannot consider only the present emergency.

Be ready for the Victory Liberty Loan. Buy the bonds and keep them. Saving means thrift. Thrift means success.

**RUPTURE EXPERT HERE.**

Seeley, Famous in This Specialty,  
 Called to Greenwood.

F. H. Seeley of Chicago and Philadelphia, the noted truss expert, will personally be at the Oregon Hotel and will remain in Greenwood Wednesday only, March 5th. Mr. Seeley says, "The Spermatic Shield will not only retain any case of rupture perfectly, but contracts the opening in 10 days on the average case. This instrument received the only award in England and in Spain producing results without surgery, injections, medical treatment or prescriptions. Mr. Seeley has documents from the United States Government, Washington, D. C., for inspection. All charity cases without charge, or if any interested call, he will be glad to show same without any charge or fit them if desired. Business demands prevent stopping at any other place in this section.

P. S.—Every statement in this notice has been verified before the Federal and State Courts.—F. H. Seeley, 2-28-1t.Pd.

**REAL ESTATE** *I offer for immediate sale the following country and city property. These are good investments---Ask About Them*

**House and Lot**—In City of Abbeville, about one-half mile from Court House, on South Main Street, near Cotton mill. Lot about one acre—house has store 21x72 feet and 12 rooms with all modern conveniences; also two-room tenant house, warehouse, stables, feed and carriage house. ----- \$4,000  
 Also the stock of general merchandise in the above store.

**SUBURBAN LOTS**—Am offering several lots in the southern section of the city of Abbeville at exceptional bargain.  
**156 ACRE TRACT**—Located 4 miles Southeast of Abbeville S. C. Six room dwelling, 3-room tenant house, barn.

About 2-horse farm rented for this year. Good bottom land, plenty ash wood and timber. Price -----\$4,400.

**TWO GOOD RESIDENCES**—on North Main Street, for sale. Ask for prices.

**ACRE LOT**—In Fort Pickens. Good location. Price --\$600.

**231 1-2 ACRES**—7 miles South of Abbeville, two tenant houses, barn, well; 15 acres bottoms, 150,000 feet saw-timber. Two horse farm already rented for 1919.

Price per acre -----\$25.00

**6-ROOM RESIDENCE**—On S.

Main St., containing 4 acres, more or less. Good barn, 1 tenant house, rat proof crib, with branch running through property. Cheap at \$2,100.00

**120 ACRE TRACT**—With good residence, tenant house, barn 11 miles from Abbeville, South. 5 miles from Troy. Price ----- \$3,000.00.

We have several tracts of land and city property for sale. The owners asked not to advertise. We will be glad to show you property we have for sale any time you ask to see it.

**Jno. F. Sutherland**  
 Abbeville, South Carolina

THE  
**ROSENBERG**  
 MERCANTILE COMPANY

Department Stores

Abbeville, So. Car.

**Spring Goods Are Arriving**  
**DAILY**

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**OXFORDS** from Howard & Foster  
**OXFORDS** from Kuppendorf Dittman  
**BEAUTIFUL SHIRTS**, in The New Styles  
**SILK HOSIERY** in Brown, Black and White

On Dry Goods, Winter Suits and Overcoats we are still giving 20 Per Cent. Discount for Cash. ¶ This offers you a real opportunity to save, and it's too good to miss.

*Our Special Feature in our Dry Goods Store is a very nice Unbleached Sheet- ing at 16c Per Yard---36 inches wide. There are Lots of Other Good Values.*

**The Rosenberg Mercantile Co.**