

Farmers, Merchants, Bankers Should Fight for Twelve-Cent Cotton.

Twelve-Cent Prices Are Justified by the World's Demands, by Crop Outlook, by Financial Condition of Country, and by Opportunities Now Afforded by the Federal Reserve System--A Campaign to Save \$250,000,000 to the Southern Cotton Growers.

(By Clarence Poe, Editor The Progressive Farmer.)

I beg space in your columns, Mr. Editor, to present a subject of the utmost importance to all our Southern country. There is no doubt in most thoughtful minds but that the South's cotton crop is going to be worth \$750,000,000 to the men who own it next spring, but it is worth only \$500,000,000 to the producers at present prices—and it is to save to Southern growers and to our Southern country this extra quarter of a billion dollars that the united energies of press and people should now be directed. The fundamental facts seem to me to be clear:

1. Cotton, even though the new crop of 1915 has started coming on the market, is still selling on the basis of prices fixed by last year's 17,000,000-bale crop.

2. These prices must soon be adjusted, however, to fit the conditions of a 12,000,000-bale crop (or probably only a 10,000,000 or 11,000,000-bale crop), and this adjusted price ought at the very least to reach 12 cents a pound for middling.

As briefly now, as clear argument will permit, I wish to point out and emphasize the truth of these statements.

I.—The World's Demands Justify Twelve Cents.

Assuming even a 12,000,000-bale yield of Southern cotton this year (and it will probably be less), this year's world production will be 3,000,000 bales short of the world's conservatively estimated consumption during the coming twelve months. That is to say, the world will consume every pound of this year's crop and 3,000,000 bales of the present surplus.

Secretary Hester, of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, estimates last year's Southern production (not the commercial crop) at 17,000,000 bales. The 1914 crop was 17,000,000 bales. The 1915 crop is estimated at 12,000,000 bales.

Now what happened with his bumper 17,000,000-bale crop in spite of all the demoralized conditions of trade and finance—the crop of which it was said last fall we should not export 4,000,000 bales? The facts are that the world used so much of it that the total world's visible supply of all cotton in mid-summer this year was only 5,135,168 bales against 3,522,276 bales a year before. In other words with a 17,000,000-bale Southern crop to handle, the world's visible supply increased only 1,900,000 bales. What is going to happen this year then, with the South offering 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 bales less—and the production of other countries also decreased? And this query brings me to another point:

II.—The World's Crop Prospects Justify Twelve Cents.

W. P. G. Harding, of the Federal Reserve Board, early in the summer secured reports from consular officials all over the world indicating a total cut in the world's cotton crop this year of 5,000,000 bales. Egypt and India reporting "radical reductions in acreage." Since that time the prospects have further declined. But even if we accept this early over-estimate of the crop we see that if last year's crop, being 5,000,000 bales bigger than this year's, yet increased the surplus only 2,000,000 bales, then this year's crop will leave a 2,000,000-bale deficit—to be drawn from the surplus.

The facts are, however, that even a 12,000,000-bale estimate for the South now seems too high. This is not simply my view, but the view of many experts, including so conservative and competent an authority as the New York Journal of Commerce, which has just declared that in view of present conditions, "the yield seems likely to be nearer 10,000,000 than 12,000,000 bales." And now comes the Wall Street Journal itself quoting Wm. S. Halliburton, of Isabel O'Dell & Co., as saying: "The current season's crop may be as low as 10,500,000 bales. It is entirely within the reach of present conditions that we shall see 12½-cent cotton before the end of the season."

These two authorities base their estimates chiefly on condition reports from all over the South, but might have added the further testimony that the South cut its fertilizer consumption this year from 4,431,000 tons to 2,636,000 tons—almost in half—and the effect of this cut will probably make itself most evident

from now on as closer scrutiny is given the fruiting of the crop. The reader can easily see for himself, therefore, that if we have only a 10,000,000-bale crop, the factories of the world would utterly drain the market dry, leaving it subject to such conditions as occurred a few years ago when speculators carried prices to 17 and 20 cents a pound. And now having pointed out that 12-cent prices are justified because the 1915 crop is certainly 3,000,000 and possibly 5,000,000 bales short of the world's demands, meaning that factories and munition factories will consume all the present yield with the greater part if not all the world's visible surplus, I also wish to call attention to the fact that—

III.—American Prosperity Justifies Twelve Cents.

The American Bankers' Association has just been meeting in Seattle, Wash., and what was the message that the president of this great organization of financiers brought the country? He predicted, says a press dispatch, that "an almost unbelievable prosperity is rushing on the nation," or to quote his exact words: "When bank reserves, which are greater now than they have ever been in the history of the country, are distributed, the nation will enjoy almost unbelievable prosperity. The volume of money on hand is so great that it cannot find a natural outlet. The movement of the tremendous crops, with the attendant financial activity, will still further increase the bank reserves."

And manufacturers are no less optimistic than bankers. The Factory Magazine, of Chicago, recently took a poll of 163 Eastern and Middle Western manufacturers as to the prospects for business in the fall. Forty, or practically one-fourth of

them, predicted a "boom" in business. Another point not to be overlooked is—

IV.—The New Federal Reserve Act Insures Better Prices.

President Hirsch, of the Texas Bankers' Association, told the big Cotton States Conference of Southern bankers in Galveston: "For the first time in the history of the South, gentlemen, the Southern bankers have the financial ability to market gradually this crop. It would almost appear as if the Federal Reserve Act had been drafted for the benefit of Southern producers." Just because the reserve act doesn't give the farmers all the help they need—just because it doesn't take the place, nor profess to take the place, of the much-needed rural credits legislation—is no reason for denying or minimizing the great advantages it does offer.

The Federal reserve system does enable the banks in the South where money is needed, to draw upon the great reserves in other sections for making loans on the cotton crop; or as Mr. Harding, of the Federal Reserve Board, officially says: "Banks have now ample facilities which they have never before enjoyed for rediscounting the notes taken against such loans, and it is for them more than for any other agency, to determine the policy of the South in regard to the marketing of the present cotton crop."

And President Wilson, in a letter to Mr. Harding, writes: "It is evident from what you tell me, that the country banks with whom the farmer and other producers directly deal can get money at from four to four and a half per cent. . . . I think that we can confidently expect that the banks in the cotton States and in the agricultural regions generally will content themselves with a rate not more than one or two per cent above the rate which they themselves pay."

It is up to the banks to justify this faith expressed by the head of the nation.

And the crop can be warehoused. Mr. Harding points out that even last fall the South had facilities for storing 11,577,465 bales, and these facilities have been greatly increased since then.

The next thing I probably ought to say is—

V.—Twelve-Cent Prices are Justified, Contraband or No Contraband.

Of the 8,543,000 bales of Ameri-

can cotton shipped to Europe in the fiscal year ending July 31, 1915, only 242,000 bales went to German ports. Of course, there was more that went indirectly to Germany, but we must remember that a considerable part of Germany's normal demand for cotton was exported to Germany's foreign trade and that this trade will now be supplied by other countries. The contraband order must almost be termed infamous if England does nothing to compensate us for trying to make Southern farmers bear her burdens, but in any case to offset the contraband order we have (1) the greatly increased demand for cotton for war purposes, (2) the increased demand for American, English, and continental factories that must supply the trade formerly supplied by German mills, together with the fact (3) that Germany is almost sure to buy and store up cotton right here in America to hold until sea trade is reopened. Even with the contraband order in effect, therefore, 12-cent prices are amply justified, whereas with open seas to all Europe, cotton would likely bring 14 or 15 cents.

An able and eminent committee on arbitration ought to be named at once by England and America, to make a fair and just estimate of the damage in price per pound resulting from the "orders in council" and contraband orders, and England should then be required to pay this amount per pound as a bonus to every American cotton producer this fall.

I confidently believe that if England should change her contraband rules so as to inflict corresponding injury upon any strong American manufacturing interest, some such settlement would be required; and Southern farmers should rise up and demand that the same recognition be given an agricultural industry as would be given a manufacturing industry.

The practical lesson clearly taught by present conditions then is—

VI.—Farmers Should Hold for Twelve Cents and Bankers Should Help Them Hold.

Of course we must be reasonable. Don't expect bankers to lend on cotton not stored or insured, nor expect them to lend the full market value. Land-owning farmers of good character who have been depositors in banks, however, will frequently be able to borrow without such restrictions.

But the local banks will do. Last year it was repeatedly stated by the minority of bankers who were willing to lend money on cotton, that few farmers applied for such loans. Let not that be said this year, we must keep the crop from being rushed to market at present prices, and that means that farmers must avail themselves of all the co-operation afforded by banks—for many owners must have advances in order to meet pressing obligations. And let every farmer remember this: It hurts prices just as much for your neighbor's crop to be rushed to market as for your own crop to be. Consequently we should have neighborhood action everywhere, with the stronger farmers and plantation owners joining to help the weaker ones to hold, grade, warehouse and sell together.

Only by the most thorough-going co-operation of all forces can we save to the South the full quarter of a billion dollars of hard-earned wealth that will otherwise go into the hands of speculators and foreign interests. Nor must we fail to realize that the worst and most dangerous "bear" of all, the man we have most to dread right now, is not the Wall Street speculator-devil who has been so often cursed and denounced, but the "bear" farmer right here in the South who is willing to prove traitor to the cause by offering to give away the crop at present prices—or the "bear" merchant or "bear" banker who forces him to sell. Yesterday morning's report of the New York Cotton Exchange, for example, announced that prices would have gone higher the day before but for the fact that—

"Some of the reports received from Georgia and Alabama predicted that farmers would sell freely at 8 cents."

And again in the earlier reports of the New York Cotton Exchange just two days ago we also read that prices would have gone higher but "there was more Southern selling."

Four Final Suggestions.

Let me conclude this argument for 12-cent prices with four specific suggestions:

1. Let press and people spread the news that the crop is really short—certainly 3,000,000 and possibly 5,000,000 bales short of the world's needs.

2. Hold for 12 cents without borrowing if you can. But remember "It is committing business suicide" to refuse to borrow if you can thereby hold your crop.

3. Not only should cotton bring

12 cents but cotton seed prices should break all records. Our export trade in cotton seed oil has jumped over 60 per cent in one year—from 192,000,000 to 318,000,000 pounds. And if good prices were paid for seed of a 17,000,000 crop, what sort of prices should we not demand for seed from a crop of only 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 bales?

4. With \$500,000,000 for her new cotton crop, the South will barely "pay out." With \$750,000,000 the whole section will have a jubilant and abounding prosperity. Bankers, merchants and all classes, therefore, should join our farmers in the fight for 12-cent prices now and for a State warehouse system in every State to help insure fair prices in future years.

The European War Day by Day.

10 Killed, 46 Wounded.

London, Sept. 8.—Ten persons were killed and 46 wounded in the German air raid on the east coast of England last night.

The official account of the raid, as given out here to-day, follows:

"Three Zeppelins visited the eastern counties last night and dropped bombs. Anti-aircraft guns were in action. Aeroplanes went up, but were unable to locate the airships.

"Fifteen small dwelling houses were demolished or seriously damaged, and a large number of doors, windows, etc., were broken. Several fires were caused, but were promptly extinguished. There was no other serious damage.

"The following casualties have been reported: Killed, two men, three women, five children, a total of ten; wounded seriously, four men, eleven women, five children, a total of 20; wounded slightly, nine men, five women, nine children, a total of twenty-three; missing and believed to be buried in debris, one man, two women, a total of three. Total casualties, fifty-six.

"All of the above were civilians except one soldier, who is reported to have been wounded seriously."

Germans Take Russian Town.

Berlin, Sept. 8.—The official statement follows:

"Western theater: A number of enemy ships appeared early yesterday morning before Middelkerke. They bombarded Westende during the morning and Ostend during the afternoon, when the ships withdrew again before the fire of our coastal batteries. No military damage was caused. In Ostend two Belgian inhabitants were killed and one was injured. On this front passed otherwise without special incident.

"A French armored aeroplane was shot down by a German aviator north of Le Mesnil. The machine crashed to earth in a burning condition and the occupants were killed.

"An enemy aeroplane attack on Freiburg, in Baden, was ineffective.

"Eastern theater: In the region of Daudsewad (near Friedrichstadt) our divisions are making further progress. Troops of Gen. von Eichhorn's army obtained possession of a few narrow strips of ground intersecting the lakes near Trokinowe, southwest of Vilna, after some fighting.

"Between Poznan and Plock our divisions are making progress. We took the town of Plock on the 7th and north of it have been operating since. Prisoners' remains in our hands, together with four machine guns.

"The enemy has been defeated in the region of Izabelin, southwest of Wolkowysk. Farther south this division is advancing toward the tributaries of the Rivers Zolkianka and Ruzanka.

"Northeast of Pruzana, Austro-Hungarian troops are forcing their way northward through the marshes of that district. More than 1,000 prisoners have been taken.

"The battles on the Jasiolda river and east of Drohiczyn have not yet been decided."

Four Submarine Victims.

Paris, Sept. 8.—The French steamship Guatemala has been torpedoed and sunk about 50 miles off Belle Isle. Her crew escaped in two boats. The men were picked up by a British steamer and taken into St. Nazaire. (The Guatemala was of 5,913 tons gross and 387 feet long.)

La Rochelle, France, Sept. 8.—The British steamer Carney, of Liverpool, was fired upon and sunk by a German submarine last night. Her crew was saved. One small boat from the Carney, with the captain and 14 members of the crew on board, is missing. It is believed to have reached another point.

London, Sept. 8.—The British steamship Douro has been sunk by gun fire, presumably from a submarine. Her crew was saved. The Douro was of 603 tons gross.

The Russian steamship Rhea has been sunk. Her crew was landed. The Rhea was of 1,145 tons gross.

Claim Many Prisoners.

London, Sept. 9.—The German version of the latest Austrian war of-

face statement, received here by wireless from Berlin, asserts that 20 Russian officers, 4,100 men and 70 machine guns were captured when Austro-Hungarian troops captured Russian positions north of Szupalka, near the mouth of the Sereth river.

Trench Taken by Germans.

Paris, Sept. 9.—There was very violent fighting last night in the Argonne region, according to announcement made this afternoon by the French war office. The report reads:

"In the Artois district there has been fighting with hand grenades and rifle firing between the trenches in the sectors of Neuville and Roclin-court. There also was fairly spirited cannonading to the south of Arras and in the region of Roye.

"In the Argonne, not far from Fontaine aux Charnes, very violent fighting took place during last night. The Germans renewed their attacks with great ferocity. With the exception, however, of a section of trench to the east of Layon de Binarville, our lines everywhere held fast. We took some prisoners and captured a machine gun.

"In the Lorraine district, in the forest of Parroy, there took place advance post engagements in which the advantage was with us."

Germans Announce Victory.

Berlin, Sept. 9.—An important victory in the Argonne was announced to-day by the war office. The war office also announced that in the Zeppelin raids over England on Tuesday and Wednesday nights bombs were dropped on docks and other port establishments in London and vicinity. The German airships returned safely. The statement follows:

"In the Argonne, northeast of Vienne Le Chateau, Wurtemberg and Lorraine, regiments began yesterday an attack which was supported effectively by artillery. The infantry charged and took possession of positions of the enemy at several points of support over a front of more than two kilometers and from 300 to 500 meters deep. Among the works taken was one often mentioned by the French, at Marie Therese. We captured 38 officers, 1,990 men, 48 machine guns, 64 mine throwers and one cannon."

No Change on British Front.

London, Sept. 9.—Sir John French has sent the following report on the British front:

"There has been no change in the situation on the British front since the 7th. Our own artillery and that of the enemy has been active east of Ypres. Elsewhere on our front conditions are normal.

Dubno Fortress Taken.

London, Sept. 9.—A dispatch from Vienna says it is officially announced that the Austrian landwehr cavalry entered the fortress of Dubno, in the Lutsk Dubno-Rovno triangle of fortresses yesterday.

Dubno, with 15,000 population, is in the government of Volhynia, on the Ikva river, a short distance north of the East Galician frontier. Lutsk, another of the forts of the triangle, was taken recently.

Russia Reports Successes.

Petrograd, Sept. 9.—An official communication made public here announces another big success for the Russians in Eastern Galicia. The communication follows:

"On the road to Rovno our troops, after an action Wednesday against great enemy forces advancing along the Olynta-Klevan railway, are holding their advanced position upon the Rivers Stabel and Ikva, where the enemy is supporting his offensive by the most violent artillery fire, which our troops are enduring with the greatest courage.

"In the Sereth district, southwest of Trembowla, our assumption of the offensive resulted Tuesday in a success as important as that at Tarnopol. During Tuesday and Wednesday we took 150 officers, 7,000 men, three guns and 26 machine guns. Our losses were unimportant. Yesterday evening the enemy retreated in great haste, pursued by our troops toward the Styra river.

"Since September 3 our success on the whole front of the River Sereth resulted in the capture by us of 383 officers and over 17,000 men. 14 heavy guns, 19 light guns, 66 machine guns and 15 artillery limbers.

"Altogether our armies are firmly and resolutely carrying out the movement in conformity with the object assigned and anticipate the future with confidence."

(A Berlin dispatch denounces the above as an "unwarranted fabrication" and asserts that no German losses have been sustained.)

Russians Repulsed, Austria Reports.

Vienna, Sept. 10.—To-day's Austrian war statement reads:

"The Russian forces fighting in the region west of Rovno have been repulsed across the Studel lowlands. Our troops, advancing from Zalsosse,

repelled the enemy in the direction of Sbarasz.

"Near Tarpanol, Austro-German battalions repulsed several Russian attacks. The Germans captured the village of Bucnow, west of the middle Sereth. Hostile reinforcements took part in the fighting, which was violent. East of the mouth of the Sereth and on the Bessarabian frontier calm prevails.

"The Austro-Hungarian forces in Lithuania have crossed the broad, swampy region of the Jesiolda and Orla and have advanced in the region southeast of Rozany."

Austrians Mass Against Roumania.

Petrograd, Sept. 10.—The concentration of heavy Austrian forces on the Rumanian frontier points to serious operations soon against Bessarabia and the region of the Middle Dniester. Russian war officials think it is regarded as improbable that the concentration indicates that an offensive move against Roumania is in progress.

The officials declare, however, that it is premature to regard the Kiev-Dnieper line as endangered. An advance from Galicia is regarded as unlikely at present because of the recent Teutonic defeat at Tarnopol.

Russian Victory at Tarnopol.

London, Sept. 10.—The Russian victory at Tarnopol, Eastern Galicia, has been followed by another effective blow at the Austrians at Trembowla, 20 miles farther south. In the combined actions more than 15,000 prisoners have been taken, according to Petrograd's reports. The Russians were unable to follow up the advantage gained at Trembowla, owing to their inferiority in artillery, and the Austrians were not pushed beyond the River Sereth.

F. and G. Claims Contradictory.

French and German claims are so contradictory that it is impossible to obtain a clear view of the situation in the Argonne, where the German Crown Prince is reported to have made considerable progress. The French are attempting to recover the lost ground, which the Germans assert includes the fortified position at Marie Therese. It is likely that this region will witness some bitter fighting the next few days.

Liquid Fire Fighting.

Paris, Sept. 10.—With liquid fire, gas bombs and heavy artillery, the Germans are violently attacking the French positions in Alsace and the Vosges mountains. It is believed that the attacks have been repulsed after some fighting.

Two French Aviators Killed.

Paris, Sept. 10.—Two French aviators, on their way to the German positions in Alsace, were killed when they collided with a barbed wire fence, which caused bombs in the machine to explode. They were buried by the Germans with military honors.

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The Old Standard Grove's Tasteless Tonic is equally valuable as a General Tonic because it contains the well known tonic properties of QUININE and IRON. It acts on the Liver, Drives out Malaria, Enriches the Blood and Builds up the Whole System. 25c.

The Collins Reunion.

Salem, Sept. 7.—Special: On August 28 Dr. John M. Collins's family came in on him, and if you had been there you would have thought the most of the people in this section were Collinses and their kin people. The old Doctor thought he would have to leave, but made out to stay after they told him they had not come after him, but only to spend the day with him, and it was a good time they had. Dr. Collins and his family know how to give their friends and relatives a good time, and that is what they did on this occasion.

Dr. Collins and family live on a part of the William Whitmire place, where the Whitmire school house stood, which was once the Whitmire Methodist church.

The Doctor has a most interesting family of hale and hearty tillers of the soil. There are 40 grandchildren, and 38 of them were present at this time. Your scribe is unable to tell of all the words of praise he heard from those invited, but it was a day long to be remembered by those present. May many more returns of this happy event come to these good people is the wish of their many friends.

Let us cheer the old people while time and opportunity afford. Soon 'twill be too late.

The way some people frown all the time you can't blame fortune for not smiling on them.—Detroit Press.

The Next Best Thing to the Pine Forest for Colds is—

Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey, which goes to the very root of cold troubles. It clears the throat and gives relief from that clogged and stuffed feeling. The pines have ever been the friend of man in driving away colds. Moreover, the pine-honey qualities are peculiarly effective in fighting children's colds. Remember that a cold broken at the start greatly removes the possibility of complications. 25c.—Ad.1