The Herald and News.

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COTTON ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SESSION

ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVE PLANTERS FROM EVERY SECTION.

All Officers Reelected—Resolutions Concerning the Acreage and Holdiug Cotton Were Accepted—To Put Warehouse Advocate in the Field.

The State, 4th.

Scoffers may laugh and jeer at the great movement for the elevation of the price of cotton as intended by the Southern Cotton association and the subdivisions in the various states, but if these sneerers could have been present yesterday at the convention of the South Carolina men who are back of the great agitation, their ideas would have been altered. They were not fanatics, these men, notf renzied by poverty into fabulous day dreams and visions of untold luxury. They were representative, intelligent and substantial, and working steadily and surely toward a clear solution of their plan.

The determination and vigor with which these delegates approached the issues were remarkable. There were over 120 present from every portion of the state and each displayed a lively interest in the proceedings.

Three sessions of the convention were held, but the delegates responded to all, even in the face of the horrible weather, and despite the fact that so many wished to be at their homes. At night the numbers were slightly diminished.

Perhaps the most important thing done by the convention was the decision to appoint a "warehouse promoter.' Although it was at first thought a good thing to have a committee of several leading spirits it was afterwards decided that these could not do the the efficient work of one enthusiastic man. This promoter will go into every county in the state and urge the farmers to erect warehouses.

All of the officers were unanimously reelected. In connection with these, Mr. E. D. Smith, the president, was elected a national committeeman by acclamation. The trust imposed in Mr. Smith by the stat e association was manifest throughout the convention. The other delegate elected was Mr. McIver Williamson of Darlington.

Delegates were elected to the convention of the Southern association in New Orleans next week and an executive committee was appointed. It was also determined to ask a bale tax of ten cents in each county, the various counties to formulate their own plans of receiving these contributions.

Reduction of acreage where not reduced this year and the holding of the cotton were two points dwelt upon throughout the meetings with enthusiasm.

PRESIDENT SMITH'S SPEECH.

In beginning his speech, President Smith said that it was a curious thing that the whole country for 40 years had looked on cotton as a staple over which it had the control to make the prices, to regulate the output, and yet it was in the power of the south to do this.

"We are 40 years behind and we had to pay the horrible debt of 40 years of slavery," said Mr. Smith.

"We have learned to make it at six cents and, by the eternal gods, we have learned to sell it at twelve," he cried with ringing enthusiasm.

"Now that the south is prosperous, Southern manhood has asserted itself. The law of supply and demand has nothing to do with cotton and now from this time on, the south will dictate the price of cotton. The movement extends from Tennessee to Texas, from the Rio Grande to the Atlantic."

Mr. Smith wanted the efforts of the convention directed to one end—the reduction of acreage. Formulate such legislation that the world will see that the south is determined not to overload itself. We have retired enough cotton to make the price 15 cents a pound and the mills must give the price or shut their doors and the run of the spindles must cease.

The Asheville convention was not a puerile gathering but the consensus of opinion of the cotton growers of the south. The price was placed at 11 1-2 cents and the manipulators immediately pushed the price down to 9 1-2 cents, depending on the fact that there were some weak producers from whom they could get 2,000,000 bales. These 2,000,000 bales gone, and the weak growers sifted out, the issue was again put to the mills.

This is not alone a farmer's movement but a southern issue. On one side of a bale of cotton is the manipulator with 115 years' experience and the money of the world behind him. On the other side is the man of the south and behind him are poverty and debt. But the weak must triumph.

Mr. Smith dealt with the plan for cooperation between the southern banker and the southern farmer. The bond between is the price of southern prosperity and the brain and money and the labor and experience must at last combine. This statement was met with applause.

There is an inexorable law in the commercial as there is the social world. The reason we are downtrodden is because we are too ignorant to understand the laws of trade.

"I am a democrat," said Mr. Smith, "just as long as it means Anglo-Saxon supremacy, but I do not want to swallow everything handed the south by the party. Had the cotton planter been a northern man he would be receiving 30 cents a pound for his cotton."

Mr. Smith is always eloquent and he painted a fine word picture when comparing the conserved energies of the coal mine to a cotton field. "The southern cotton field is a coal mine and all the hopes and all the aspirations of a southern people are poured over the silken staple." He said:

"I want the stream of gold turned back into the southland," was a significant utterance.

He congratulated every man in South Carolina and in the south who had joined in this movement to throw off the shackles. "Let 'em call it a trust, I don't give a damn—as long as it bring a stream of gold. But I shudder when I think of 16,000,000 people cringing under the lash of that sneering gambler who sits and smirks in Wall street—Theodore A. Price!

"Now, gentlemen, the fight is before you. If you don't get 15 cents, somebody's going naked. They say the farmers won't stick. They have stuck to starvation for 40 years.

"Talk about your sweat boxes! We have got the manufacturer and the consumer in a sweat box and we are going to sweat 15 cents out of them."

In concluding he said that he had served as best he could for 12 months. He had been criticized but he had got what he wanted and Mr. Smith related the rise in cotton prices under the influence of the association. "If all the lies that have been told about last year's crop were made into lint and baled up the southern farmer could sit back and never work again."

The speech was met with frequent and interrupting applause and the natural magnetism of the speaker held his hearers intent.

The report of the executive committee was read and adopted as follows:

"The executive committee of the Southern Cotton association South Carolina division met in the office of the association Jan. 2nd, 1906. Present were: Messrs. Cleveland, Pegues, Farr and Singleton.

"The president appointed Dr. Wade Stackhouse to fill vacancy caused by death of Mr. A. C. Lyles.

"The committee examined the books and accounts of the treasurer and checked off the same. They find that this division of the association has received from all sources $7,636.32, and has paid out to the national association $2,300, expenses $2,342.69, salaries $1,884.33, making a total of $6,527.02—leaving a balance on hand to the credit of the association of $1,109.30.

"Resolved, That the salaries of the officers of this association be tendered them as directed by this committee at its first meeting, that is to say: President, $1,000; secretary, $600; treasurer, $600 per annum.

"The committee desire to call the attention of the association to the work accomplished by the officers of the association, the president, the vice president, the secretary and the treasurer, to whom is due in a great measure the success of the movement and we take pleasure in extending them our warmest thanks.

"All of which is respectfully submitted.

"R. Mays Cleveland,
"F. M. Farr,
"Richard Singleton,
"R. M. Pegues,
"Wade Stackhouse."

Mr. F. H. Weston, the secretary of the association, announced that he wished to contribute to the association the salary of $600, which the association had expected to pay him. Mr. R. I. Manning made a ringing speech, in which he urged that Mr. Weston, having worked hard and faithfully, should accept the money, even if only as a token of esteem. Other speeches were made in support of this motion and a vote was taken, being unanimous in favor of the motion.

The present officers were reelected. These included the following: President, E. D. Smith of Sumter; vice president, H. B. Tindal of Greenville; secretary, F. H. Weston of Richland; treasurer, F. H. Hyatt of Richland.

Before the question was put, President Smith said that if any delegate wanted to make any other nominations he hoped they would do so. He wanted to avoid any appearance of anything cut and dried. The vote was taken and Mr. A. B. Stuckey of Sumter cast the ballot.

There was then a question as to whether the executive committee should be appointed or elected. The members were appointed last year. A vote was taken and the chair was instructed to appoint an executive committee. The same action was taken in regard to the finance committee.

In speaking of a warehouse committee, Mr. Smith said that the committee should be active and energetic. He insisted that it be composed of the best men in the state.

There was considerable discussion as to whether the chair should appoint this committee or it should be elected. There were plans to have a member from each county and again to limit the membership to five. There were also a suggestion that a member come from each congressional district. There were also motions to have the respective delegates select the members. After further discussion it was decided to appoint one member from each county. The chairman appointed one delegate from each of these and the convention adjourned for dinner at 2 o'clock while the big committee of over 30 members met in the interim to formulate plans for a warehouse committee.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the afternoon session various resolutions were handed in and turned over to the committee on resolutions which with the other committee retired to consult. On motion of Mr. McIver Williamson a committee of five was appointed by the hair to confer as to salaries.

While the committee was out President Smith called for expressions as to reduction of acreage and among others Mr. F. H. Weston began to speak but was interrupted by the appearance of the warehouse committee. The report of this committee brought about a discussion which was continued for a lengthy period.

The committee recommended that a warehouse committee consisting of seven men one from each congressional district be appointed, the chairman to be the secretary of the state association, who would also represent his district. This committee was to cooperate with county committees of not less than three members who should be appointed by the various county presidents. Mr. R. I. Manning read the recommendation. Mr. A. B. Stuckey of Sumter immediately rose and in a very intelligent speech moved that instead of such a plan that a "warehouse promoter," who should handle the entires ituation, should handle the entire situation, recited the experiences of Sumter county, which was for a long time without a man to start the movement for a warehouse and used this in behalf of his argument. He believed that a good man could go into the counties and get the farmers to take stock in these warehouses. His speech was vigorous and he was warmly applauded. He was followed along the same line by Mr. B. H. Boykin Rev. R. A. Sublett and others. Mr. Stuckey was about to offer his idea as an amendment and in fact did so, when the suggestion was made that the state president should be constituted the officer desired. Along this line Mr. R. P. Hamer, Jr., said that the committee on salaries had recommended that the president's salary should be increased. The plan of "promoter-organizer-president" brought out more discussion. Some thought the work was too much for one man as he would have to go into every township and especially as Mr. E. D. Smith is now financial agent and general organizer of the Southern association. Mr. Smith declared that he would be satisfied with the decision of the convention, but he seemed to advise a special warehouse man. Mr. F. H. Hyatt declared that the state would not have Mr. Smith's services much longer, as he would probably be made national canvasser when the New Orleans convention met.

Col. L. W. Youmans brought the matter to a head by moving that the executive committee instead of a warehouse committee appoint the warehouse agent and pay him such salary as they should see fit and that the county committees of not less than three be appointed by the county presidents to cooperate with this agent. This was identical with Mr. Stuckey's motion and it was adopted at 5.20 o'clock, after a long discussion.

REDUCTION OF ACREAGE.

The committee on resolutions then reported and a resolution that acreage be reduced 25 per cent except where it had ben done in 1905 and where there was only one mule to ten acres was adopted. The word "plow" was substituted for the "mule" without discussion. Another resolution adopted was that the county secretaries report to the Columbia office the result of the county elections especially that of the delegates to the state association. Still another resolution adopted endorsed the Southern Cotton association, urged closer bond between grower and spinner, between farmer and banker and urged the representatives and senators in congress to use means to make foreign markets favorable to American and southern products. Another clause advocated diversification of products and the raising of home supplies.

A resolution was recommended providing for a bale tax levy for the support of the state, county and southern associations, one-third to go to each.

THE BALE TAX.

When this came up there was some question as to the tax collection he had hired men to do this. Orangeburg had been about $1,400 deficient and this amount had been divided into the townships, deducting in each the money which had been already paid. After this Mr. Wannamaker had easily collected money from farmers and friends alike.

Mr. Louis Appelt of Clarendon felt that each county must formulate its plan of collection.

The resolution providing for a 10 cent tax with each county to formulate the plan was passed. The words of the resolution do not make the tax obligatory but only "ask for it."

CHINESE EXCLUSION.

A rather radical resolution was adopted in regard to Chinese labor This reads:

"Whereas, our Chinese immigration laws have been apparently formed under the pressure of labor unions, reinforced by race prejudice, and

"Whereas, it is high time for our commercial interests, reinforced by the American commerce, to take a hand in forming these laws and

"Whereas, the Chinese exclusion act is not only in violation of their treaty rights, but its application is carried on in such harsh and unjust manner as to cause that amiable, peace-loving and friendly race to rise in resentment, as witness the boycott of American wares.

"Resolved, That our senators and representatives in congress be urged to take this matter promptly and vigorously in hand to the end that justice may be done and our commercial interests protected."

NATIONAL COMMITTEEMEN.

The next business in order was the election of two national committeemen and Mr. J. E. Wannamaker nominated Mr. R. P. Hamer, Jr. Mr. R. M. Cleveland nominated Mr. H. B. Tindal, Dr. W. W. Ray nominated Mr. McIver Williamson. Col. Richard Singleton nominated Mr. E. D. Smith. Mr. A. B. Stuckey nominated Mr. R. I. Manning, but Mr. Manning felt that he should decline "for reasons which I do not think necessary to mention here." Mr. B. F. Keller nominated Mr. E. D. Smith and Dr. W. W. Ray moved that the rules be suspended and Mr. Smith be elected by acclamation. This was done amid cheers and applause and Mr. Smith was evidently touched, for he thanked the convention feelingly.

A vote was taken for the other committeemen but resulted in a deadlock. Another vote was taken as follows: Williamson 43, Hamer 26 and Tindal 14. Mr. Williamson was declared elected.

NIGHT SESSION.

The first business at the night session was the election of delegates at large to the New Orleans convention next week. Eight were nominated instead of seven as intended but the convention suspended the rules and sent them all, in addition paying their railroad fare. Those who will go are: J. E. Wannamaker of Orangeburg, J. P. Rutledge of Clarendon, F. H. Hyatt of Richland, E. L. Archer of Spartanburg, G. M. Kinard of Newberry, R. M. Pegues of Marlboro, LeRoy Springs of Chester and H. B. Tindal of Greenville. These are in addition to the delegates from each county.

The following executive committee was appointed for the year: R. M. Cleveland, Richard Singleton, F. M. Farr, R. M. Pegues, Wade Stackhouse and J. E. Wannamaker.

The regular business of the convention was concluded about 9 o'clock and several talks were made.

Mr. McIver Williamson announced the salary committee had determined to leave the matter to the executive commitee. This recommendation was adopted.

There were enthusiastic calls for E. L. Archer, president of the Spartanburg county association and one of the most intelligent, energetic and successful organizers in the state, and he made a speech in response. He said that the men in front of him were not the real sufferers from cheap cotton but rather the small farmer. He did not wish to be thought a demagogue. He made the statement that farmers outside the association had increased their acreage and thus there had been no real reduction.

"We have no more use for Daniel Sully than for Theodore Price, for we are not engaged in speculative values."

In making a plea for holding cotton, Mr. Archer said that a farmer with oats and hay and flour and supplies did not need to do else than hold his cotton.

In accordance with his ideas, Mr. W. I. Bryan submitted a resolution that the New Orleans convention be memorialized to devise means for the use of cotton for fertilizer bags, horse collars, etc.—in any way in which cotton might be substituted for other material. This was adopted.

Another resolution adopted was that the executive committee be authorized to appoint a state organizer. This will be combined with the office of warehouse promoter.

Col. L. W. Youmans made a speech depicting the change in aspect of the south—the transition from poverty to wealth. He believes that the southerner has got the game in his own hands. Don't sell your birthright for a mess of pottage, he begged in pleading for holding cotton. "Be true to yourselves."

Mr. McIver Williamson gave an interesting talk on corn production before the convention adjourned.

Fifteen-Ton Pieee of Coral.

Honolulu Commercial Advertiser.

The dredger Governor, in the old Pacific Mail Dock, did herself proud yesterday morning by landing a fifteen ton piece of coral on dry land. The big scoop had been delivering ordinary loads when the boom dropped and the engine startted to haul in fresh load. Then the gear groaned and things commenced to make big fuss, and more steam was given and everybody stood by. Balanced as neatly as an egg in a spoon came up a coral rock far too big to get in the scoop and just able to cramp in under the gun block.