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REDUCTION IS ONLY HOPE FOR COTTON

No Relief is to be Obtained from Foreign Countries in View of Paul Pflieger.

"It is only to be hoped that the American planter will see the danger of the situation, and will reduce his acreage to a minimum. It is the only salvation for the spinner as well as for the planter."

Thus writes Mr. Paul Pflieger, at Ghent, Belgium, continental representative of John F. Maybank & Co., of Charleston to his firm, who is represented in Florence by Mr. Arthur M. McCall, whom they have sent a copy of the letter. Mr. McCall has handed this letter to the Chamber of Commerce for use as information to the cotton planters in this section. The letter, in full, is as follows:

"Ghent, Belgium, Feb. 11, 1921
Messrs. John F. Maybank & Co.,
Charleston, S. C.,

"Dear Sirs:
My object in writing present letter is to make you further acquainted with conditions prevailing on this side:

"The situation has remained unchanged since writing you last, and there can be no thought whatever of any business in Belgium. Spinners continue to resell their cotton amongst themselves, at anything they can get for it for the sake of making money, and to delay the financial crisis. They are supplied for at least 5 to 6 months ahead on account of the enormous short time they had to work on, in order not to increase their already very big stocks of yarns.

"I have told you before that, during the whole of this season, Texas and Oklahoma-Texas cotton has been much cheaper than other growths so practically no cotton other than Texas and Oklahoma-Texas has been brought here.

"As I see the situation here, Belgium spinners must have lost approximately 100 million francs this season. Delay after delay of shipment is being asked for, and our competitors who have come out all the time with extremely low prices, and who got to say most of the business done, are now in a terrible fix. Drafts, for cotton already shipped and invoiced, have to be renewed. Under these circumstances, we can only be glad we have not done any business, I can even say that I have not been too eager to sell cotton for any of my firms.

"The situation of our spinners is really so deplorable, that it is almost a necessity for the American firms to help them. I must say that so far Belgian spinners have all behaved extremely well, as it has come to my knowledge that a good many French spinners have simply cancelled their contracts leaving the American shippers to get out of the situation as well as they could. Of course, law suits might be made, but it is really questionable whether much will be obtained by them.

"It is only to be hoped that the American planter will see the danger of the situation, and will reduce his acreage to a minimum. It is the only salvation for the spinner as well as for the planter.

"Unless the market improves very much within the next few months, I am afraid that many failures will have to be recorded.

"I am enclosing letter treating the question of the shore risk clause, and shall thank you to give this matter your best attention, and to advise as soon as possible.

"I am, dear sir,
Very truly yours,
PAUL PFLIEGER."

Town Primary Next Tuesday.

Very little interest is manifested in the town primary to be held next Tuesday in which a mayor and council will be elected for the ensuing two years and two commissioners of public works for four and six years. Mayor Hamer has announced that he will stand for re-election, and so far there have been no other announcements. There have been no announcements of aldermen and commissioners of public works. The time for filing pledges is up at 12 o'clock Monday. The books of enrollment are open at Moody's Drug Store.

Arrangements are being made to have addresses at the court house Monday night at 7:30 o'clock by the several candidates. Every candidate will be present and will discuss his issues.

OFFICERS CAPTURE STILL

Rural Policeman John McCracken was nosing round the backwoods on the A. K. McLeilan Little Rock place last week and ran across a crude still from which the liquid fire was still oozing. There was no one present to claim the contraption, but later in the day Officer McCracken fastened the evidence on Andy Nichols, and now Nichols is bound over to court in the sum of \$200.

Abram Thompson and Henry Williamson, tenants on one of Mr. McLeilan's places across the river, were caught with the goods by Sheriff Bethea and both deposited \$200 bonds for their appearance at the next term of court. Abraham and Henry denied all knowledge of the transaction, but the still was warm when Sheriff Bethea came upon the pair and they had no chance to prove an alibi. Last week was a blue week for the fellows who make the stuff.

DOES FERTILIZER PAY?

I don't think any of the calculations offered to induce farmers to use fertilizer, and to use it abundantly, are correct. They claim that all things being equal the proper use of fertilizers will very materially increase the yield.

I agree that this far is correct, and no one disputes it, but let's go further. Let's take cotton for instance. They claim that an acre of land that will of itself produce 400 pounds of seed cotton, by the use of 400 pounds of 8-3-3 will produce 800 pounds of seed cotton. Now they will say that the 400 pounds of cotton produced without the use of fertilizer, at 4 cents per pound would bring \$16, the 800 pounds at 4 cents per pound will be \$32; deduct \$10 for the fertilizer and you will have \$22 against \$16 for the acre without fertilizer—leaving a net balance in favor of the acre with fertilizer of \$6.

They don't figure the hauling, handling and sowing the fertilizer, nor do they figure picking the 400 pounds of extra cotton and handling that, nor the difference in the price of a big crop of cotton and a small crop.

Now I would figure it this way. Admitting that the 400 pounds of fertilizer would double the yield or produce 400 pounds more of seed cotton, I don't admit that when you double the crop it will sell for the same price—not by any means. If the 800 pounds of seed cotton per acre with the 400 pounds of fertilizer represent about the normal crop of about 12,000,000 bales, the 4 cents per pound is about a fair price for it and the \$32 is just about what it will bring. Now for the 400 pounds 8-3-3 fertilizer at \$10 hauling, handling at \$1, and picking and handling the extra 400 pounds cotton \$4—this gives us \$15 expense on account of the fertilizer, this from \$32 leaves us \$17.

Now what about no fertilizer and 400 pounds seed cotton to the acre? Let's see how we start on this—well, calculate on the same basis. If the 800 pounds per acre gave us a 12,000,000-bale crop, then of course 400 pounds per acre, will give us a 6,000,000-bale crop. Now does anybody think that a 6,000,000-bale crop will sell for the same price as a 12,000,000-bale crop? I am sure not. It will bring three times as much per pound. But just to be liberal, we will just assume that it will bring twice as much per pound. Now we figured the other at 4 cents per pound for the seed cotton, so we will figure this at 8 cents per pound for the seed cotton. This will give us \$32 for this acre of 400 pounds and no fertilizer bill to pay, no fertilizer to haul and handle, and no extra 400 pounds cotton to pick and handle, and we will get in cool cash the difference between \$17 and \$32—which is \$15 in favor of the acre with no fertilizer.

The fertilizer man is ready to say that this isn't fair and that the farmer must not make more than he has a good demand for and that a few acres well-fertilized will yield the amount more economically. Well, this might be true in a measure, but the average farmer figures that the more he makes, the more he will get.

SUPREME COURT HOLDS MARION MAN DID NOT BLOCKADE.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Today the Supreme Court of the United States reversed Judge Smith, of the Federal District Court of Eastern South Carolina in the case of Lawrence Amos, of Marion county, an alleged "blockade" whiskey seller, on grounds involving the search of premises by Federal revenue agents without a warrant. The Supreme Court declares such search unconstitutional.

Amos was indicted on six counts, on four of which he was acquitted, but was convicted on counts of removing whiskey on which the Federal tax had not been paid and of selling whiskey without payment of the federal tax. It was brought out in the trial before Judge Smith's court that P. J. Coleman and O. A. Rector, revenue agents, went to Amos' house to search the premises, stating that they were officers. Amos wife said he was not at home but she permitted the search and the agents found in a barrel of peas a bottle containing about half a pint of blockade whiskey and under a quilt two quart bottles of similar liquor. They had no search warrant and no warrant for the arrest of Amos. They submitted as evidence a small quantity of liquor which they said was from the bottles which they found in Amos' house.

Justice Clark writing the opinion of the Supreme Court declares that the cross examination of the government witnesses shows clearly the unconstitutional character of the seizure by which the property which the government introduced as evidence was obtained.

Contention that the constitutional rights of the defendants were waived by the act of his wife admitting the searchers is not sustained, the highest court holding that there was implied coercion in the circumstances. The Supreme Court remands the matter for further action in accordance with the decision announced today.

Millionaire clubmen acted as stokers on a Swedish liner bound for New York when the regular crew of firemen struck for higher wages.

CUT CROP IN HALF.

South's Only Hope Lies in Fifty Percent Reduction.

Mr. T. B. Stackhouse, for many years president of the Bank of Dillon, and now president of the Standard Warehouse Co., sees no hope for the south unless the cotton acreage is reduced at least 50 percent. Mr. Stackhouse has thousands of bales of cotton stored in his various warehouses, and standing between producer, banker and spinner, he is in position to view the situation from its several angles. Mr. Stackhouse thinks the south would be far better off not to plant a hill of cotton, but says it may be able to pull through the present crisis with a 50 percent reduction in acreage.

Following is a copy of a letter which Mr. Stackhouse has just written to one of the largest planters in the Pee Dee country in response to a letter from the planter asking for information on the cotton situation:

"I am in receipt of your favor of the 5th instant and, in my opinion, if not more than one-fourth of the fertilizer used last year is used by the southern cotton growers in 1921 it will not materially help those who are holding 1920 cotton until the size of the 1921 crop is known, for the reason that the world will not believe in a small cotton crop until the 1921 crop is harvested. Not less than a 50 percent reduction in last year's acreage will help the farmer get better prices for the 1920 and 1921 crops.

Texas and Oklahoma farmers sold last fall at from two and three times today's prices, and in my opinion will plant freely this year. Mr. J. M. Miller, president of the First National Bank of Richmond has recently sent out to customers of his bank a letter from which I quote as follows:

"In our judgment the cotton and tobacco already on hand in this country together with not over a half a crop for the coming year is all that the world will be able to purchase and pay for at reasonable prices."

His opinion is sustained by the most noted cotton authorities in England, France and Belgium.

This morning's paper states that twenty four mills in Spain have shut down, and the remaining mills are running on half time. A recent letter to Mr. Maybank, of Charleston from his Brussels correspondent states that the Belgium cotton mills are selling their cotton for whatever they can get for it, and that mills in France running are doing so at an enormous loss.

I hold in my hand a card signed "Dr. Bradford Knapp" from which I quote as follows:

"Get it out of your head that anything but the supply and the world's ability to buy fixes the price of cotton."

This quotation is followed by a statement that there is now enough cotton in the world to last about two years.

I heard one of the largest manufacturers in the Piedmont section of this state made the statement last Saturday that the southern cotton mills were facing as mean conditions as the cotton farmers of the state now face, in that their warehouses were full of manufactured goods for which there was no market and a great deal of the goods made out of high priced cotton. Under all these conditions it seems to me worse than folly for South Carolina to grow cotton in 1921.

My interest in this matter is wholly impersonal, as I haven't a bale of cotton, spots or futures.

Very truly,
T. B. STACKHOUSE.

COUNTRY CLUB TO ALLAY FEELING.

At a meeting Wednesday night of the Marion and Mullins people held in the Marion Chamber of Commerce hall for the purpose of discussing the feasibility of a country club to be located on the Marion-Mullins road a committee of five was appointed to investigate the matter of a site and formulate a plan for organization.

H. L. Tilghman, of Marion, acted as chairman at the meeting. He appointed on the committee S. W. Norwood and J. M. Johnson, of Marion, and H. O. Schofield, T. L. Smith, and R. J. Williams, of Mullins. The committee met this afternoon for the purpose of investigating prospective sites for the club house and golf links.

Several enthusiastic talks were made at the meeting and from the general spirit exhibited it appeared that Marion and Mullins could get together on the question of a golf club and put the proposition over. For a long time the spirit of rivalry between the towns of Mullins and Marion has been keen to almost a point of bitterness. It is believed that a country club of this sort where citizens of both towns will be thrown together in a pleasant way will tend to eradicate unfriendly feeling.

The distance between the two towns is nine miles and the road goes the entire way. There are several stretches of ground along the road which will make good golf courses. The plan is to locate the club as near midway as possible.

According to plans discussed last night, a stock company composed of Marion and Mullins citizens will purchase the property. Arrangements will be made to let others in on minimum dues.

DILLON MAN PRAISES ANCONAS.

Col. G. G. McLaurin Says Little Ancona is a Living Dynamo.

The following is taken from Monday's issue of the News and Courier: The "little speckled hen" or Mottled Ancona is fortunate in having a bunch of real boosters in South Carolina. During the poultry show and meeting at Columbia last fall the breeders of this variety got together for the express purpose of organizing a strong Ancona movement in this state with a view to bringing out a big string of Anconas at Columbia this year.

The success of this movement is evidenced by a letter just received from G. G. McLaurin of Dillon president of the South Carolina Ancona Club. Mr. McLaurin is a strong believer in his favorites and backs them against all comers. He says, "when you tie to the little speckled hen you have a living dynamo—no dead wood to struggle with."

The Ancona leader expects to have a good line of birds out this fall and says in his letter "I have been doing considerable work for our little club since its organization, and have had fairly good response from the Ancona breeders. I have secured pledges already, for more than 100 entries for our next annual meet, which will probably be held in connection with the State Fair. With a little assistance on your part, and with the boosters we are enlisting, I feel safe in saying that it will be only a short time before our breed will constitute the greatest display at the show."

Mr. McLaurin lays stress on the great amount of good to be accomplished by a little organization work. He points out that his efforts and the efforts of those who are backing him in the movement, have brought forth good results.

Other breeders who are interested in bringing out a fine line of Anconas this year are: Wendell M. Levi, of Sumter, vice-president; J. W. Cottrell, of Columbia, secretary-treasurer; Mike L. Roof, New Brooklyn; J. F. Monroe, Greenwood; E. L. Sharp, Columbia; W. A. Axon, Spartanburg; Thos. P. Hogan, Columbia; F. R. Rister, Chaplin; Chas. M. Watson, Navy Yard and Mrs. H. H. Withers, Columbia, members of the executive board.

The motto of the club is "the hen that lays when others lay down."

JAS. H. BERRY KILLS HIMSELF

Closeting Himself in an Outhouse Sends Bullet Through His Brain.

Mr. Jas. H. Berry, a well known farmer of the Floydale section, killed himself at an early hour Friday morning. The weapon used was a .32 calibre pistol. The bullet entered at the right temple and was found just underneath the skin of the left eye. Death was instantaneous.

The news of the tragedy was a great shock to the entire community, as no one had the slightest suspicion that Mr. Berry contemplated so rash an act.

Mr. Berry was in town Thursday afternoon talking with friends and appeared to be in the best of spirits. He closed a contract for his year's supply of guano and returned home late in the afternoon. After supper he sat round the fireside and talked with his family, but as the evening wore on he lost his cheerfulness and seemed to lapse into a depressed mood. He retired at his usual hour, but was restless during the night. He arose at his usual hour next morning and went out to look after his stock, and when breakfast was ready a member of his family went out to look for him. He was found in an outhouse near the barn, sitting upright, with a ghastly pistol wound in his right temple. It had not been many minutes since he had left the house, and the pistol shot was not heard, but when his body was found life was extinct.

Mr. Berry, it was learned, had been despondent for some time. About 25 years ago he purchased the place on which he was living and had enjoyed undisturbed possession of it for a quarter of a century. He was an excellent farmer and had developed it into one of the most fertile plantations in the county. About a year ago a suit was instituted against him in the circuit court of Dillon county by some heirs who claimed the property. Mr. Berry lost his suit in the lower court, but took the case up to the supreme court where it is still pending. One of his neighbors who acquired part of the same original tract years ago discovered the same cloud on his title, and after the matter had run the course of the courts and had gone against him made a settlement with the heirs in order to retain title to the property. It is thought that Mr. Berry had brooded over the probable loss of his land and the present serious depression through which the country is passing until he became temporarily unbalanced.

He was a strong, robust man who still had many years of usefulness before him, and his tragic taking off is deeply regretted by all who knew him. He was buried at Latta Saturday afternoon, and in the Latta News Department of this issue will be found an extended account of his funeral and his family history.

America is furnishing to France wooden houses. They are ready cut, consisting of three rooms and a shed and occupying about 22 square feet.

WOMAN CHARGES ASSAULT.

A rather unusual case came before Magistrate Haselden Monday when a white woman charged that she had been assaulted, but admitted that she could not remember the name of the man who assaulted her. The woman lives in the western part of the county, and has long since passed middle age. She claimed that a man she knew but whose name she did not recall entered her home and assaulted her. Questioned in Magistrate Haselden's court she charged several different men with the crime, but later withdrew the charges. Then she seemed to have an inspiration and said the Lord had just told her that her assailant was Beacham Cox, a negro who lives on Dr. J. H. David's place near town. Cox was brought before Magistrate Haselden and subjected to a rigid cross examination, but he claimed that while he knew the woman her accusations were absolutely false. He proved by reliable witnesses that he went away Saturday night, the night the crime is alleged to have been committed, and did not return until Monday morning. He also introduced witnesses who helped him in establishing an alibi. Cox was bound over to court, but there seems to be some doubt as to the sanity of the woman who charges him with the crime.

FOOLISH PEOPLE.

Bill Johnston let his cow get out and eat Jim Turner's corn. Jim, he took his shot gun down and plugged one through the horn. Bill's little boy came in and told his father all about it, and Bill he swore, his hair he tore, he raved and fumed and shouted. And then forded into town to buy some ammunition. He swore he'd shoot all things of Jim's he found on his plantation. On reaching home he cleaned his gun, oiled it nice and neat. He knew Jim's chickens would be found devouring his wheat. And when they come," he told his wife, "just view me kill and slay. I'll show Jim Turner shooting is a game that two can play. Old Bill was sure some mad guy when he heard of Jim's big threat, and talked of telling the revenue's who made that county wet. Then their wives, they met one day down at the village store. Mrs. Johnson thought it was the time to even up a score. Said she to Mr. Turner's wife, "You know that its a fact, you're always getting things from me and you never pay them back. I've loaned you flour, meat and lard, coffee, tea and cabbage. A person who won't pay their debts is worse than a savage." Then Mrs. Turner, she got mad and started in to say a lot of how those Johnson kids fought her little boy at play. Thus it went from bad to worse, and ended in a fight. The mayor sent them both to jail, and there they spent the night. If Bill had fixed that pasture fence so that it would hold his cattle, and Jim had used some common sense instead of getting rattled, and then if those two women folks had put their heads together and tried to stop that foolishness instead of fighting each other, then all this would have never been, and they would still be friends. It don't take much to start a row, but a lot to make it end. The Turner kids and Johnson kids met one morning on the sly to play the childhood games again as in the days gone by. It was not long till sad to say, a dirty fight got started but sister she got on the job and soon had them parted. Don't worry, they will make up soon, through now with rage they are brimming, for little kids have got more sense than grown up men and women.

County Commissioners Organize

The new commissioners, appointed under the recent county government act, held their first meeting Tuesday. The old commissioners met with them and wound up last year's business. The commissioners organized by electing J. H. McLaurin, chairman, J. Ben Edwards was elected clerk, W. C. Moore was re-elected county attorney and Dr. L. R. Craig was re-elected county physician. J. C. Adams was elected county commissioner.

The board is composed of one commissioner from each township, and the personnel of the commission is as follows: J. H. McLaurin, Manning; D. C. Manship, Kirby; J. B. Arnette, Hillsboro; H. A. Hasty, Harleesville; Jas. McLellan, Carmichael. Mr. T. W. Berry was named as commissioner from Bethea, but as Mr. Berry is a member of the State Board of Review and the constitution prohibits the holding of more than one office of honor or profit, Mr. Berry did not qualify, and asked that his successor be appointed.

Finest Times Coming.

The Walton, Ga., Tribune says that the hard times grouch should consider the story of the man who was really "up against it." "His horse went dead and his mule went lame, And he lost his cow in a poker game, And a cyclone came on a winter day, And blew the house where he lived away; Then an earthquake came when that was gone, And swallowed the ground that his house was on; Then the tax collector, he came around, And charged him up with the hole in the ground."

SMITH TO DIRECT COTTON INQUIRY.

Will Ascertain Volume of Cotton on Hand and Quality of Grades.

Washington, March 7.—Senator E. D. Smith of South Carolina, is en route home for the purpose of adjusting his affairs preparatory to what promises to be a long absence. The South Carolina senator is a member of the subcommittee which, under the authority of his own amendment, will make a general investigation of the cotton situation.

The subcommittee will ascertain the amount of cotton actually on hand in the United States and its grades. The cotton producer has been such a sufferer, according to Senator Smith, from inaccurate reports of "cotton on hand", which reports are always greatly in excess of the actual quantity, and thus depress the market, that is absolutely necessary that the truth be ascertained.

The subcommittee will visit New York and possibly New Orleans. The revelations will be followed by legislation as result of which the government will be equipped for securing only accurate estimates.

COUNTY NEWS

Minturn.

Misses Mary and Julia Edwards spent the past week end with Mrs. John Hargrove in Dillon.

Miss Ruth Hodges of Brownsville visited Miss Annie Henegan last week. Mrs. Clarence McLaurin entertained quite a few of the young people Wednesday evening. Dancing and numerous games of cards were enjoyed and delightful punch was served by Mrs. McLaurin.

A number of the Minturn folk enjoyed "The Womanless Wedding," at Carolina Friday evening.

Miss Effie Evans spent the week end with Miss Verna McQueen.

Mr. John Hugh McCormac of the Marion school spent Sunday here with his parents.

Mr. Mack McQueen visited his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Mac Carmichael in Dillon last week.

Miss Annie Henegan spent Sunday with her sister, Mrs. H. C. Hamer of Clio.

The Ladies' Missionary Society of the Reedy Creek Presbyterian church held its monthly meeting on last Thursday afternoon with Mrs. R. M. Evans.

Floydale

Rev. P. K. Crosby and family visited friends at Nichols the past week. Miss Rosa Dreher spent the week end with Miss Katie Connelly at Smithboro.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. McDonald and Mr. and Mrs. Percy McDonald spent Sunday in Latta with friends.

Little Miss Janet Stackhouse spent the week end with Mrs. K. B. Hodges at Brownsville.

Our community was shocked and saddened over the death of Mr. J. H. Berry, and the deepest sympathy goes out to them from the entire neighborhood in their sad bereavement.

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Hodges spent Friday with Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stackhouse.

Mrs. A. B. McElyea (Aunt Becky) is expected this week to visit Mrs. J. L. McLaurin.

OAK GROVE.

Birthday Party.

On Saturday afternoon, March 5, from 3 to 5 o'clock, Miss Annie Ruth Fair was at home to a few of her friends and classmates. After two guessing contests, over which the girls had much fun, prizes were awarded to Misses Mollie Wise and Beulah Brigman.

After several other games were played the guests were summoned to the dining room where delightful refreshments were served.

The birthday cake was very pretty, decorated with fifteen tiny white candles in white rose bud holders.

Before leaving the dining room each girl drew a souvenir from a basket suspended from the light.

This was a most enjoyable afternoon for all present.

Oak Grove

The second quarterly conference for the Brownsville charge will be held at New Holly Monday afternoon March 21st, at three o'clock.

Mr. Tracey E. Fore recently lost by fire about thirty bales of cotton, which was stored in a barn on his Browns Creek plantation. Nineteen bales were entirely consumed, the rest being badly scorched. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Mr. S. W. Epps, farm demonstration agent for this county and Mr. William who is also engaged in this work, but of statewide scope, visited the Oak Grove school one day last week and each made good talks in the interest of their work. Quite a number of the boys expressed a desire to do club work this year.

The good water of the past few weeks has been beneficial to farm work and many farmers are making rapid headway along this line.

So far very little guano has been shipped into this section and the general opinion is that it will be used around here in very limited quantities.

C. C. Graham spent Tuesday in Sumter on business.