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Yours very truly,  
**THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.**

**Why Cotton is to be Scarce and High-Priced.**

Editors Progressive Farmer:

While others are writing about cotton and the outlook for prices which I have enjoyed (especially the article by President Harvie Jordan, which I fully approve), I will give my views on the subject. The South, I believe, has about reached the limit as to production unless it should be an especially good season all over the South and my reasons are:

1. The labor question. Thousands have left the farms and gone to work in mills of all kinds, and as more mills are built, more will leave and go there. Why do I say this? Because they can make more in the mills, and most people would rather live in towns where they can live better, and a large class of men live off their children's labor when, if they were on the farms, they would at least have to superintend the work.

2. In all rolling sections of the South, the continuous culture in cotton, with but little rotation, has and will continue to impoverish the soil by washing so that the amount per acre will grow less and less until it won't pay to cultivate it in anything. I know farms that used to produce from one-third to two-thirds of a bale per acre that will not now produce one-sixteenth, and a great deal that will produce nothing.

3. The boll weevil has come to stay, as announced by the Department of Agriculture, and the weevil is likely to cut a considerable figure.

Then as to other countries rais-

ing cotton, I admit they have the pauper labor to compete with ours, but if they could raise much cotton, it would have been done during and after the Civil War when it brought as high as \$1 per pound, and it averaged for ten years after much higher than at present. So the South need have no fear of six and seven cent cotton again.

By all means raise your own supplies and don't plant too much cotton.

Respectfully,  
S. A. LOWRANCE.  
Iredell Co., N. C.

**White Labor.**

The Census Bureau has published the statistics that of the 24,000,000 acres of cotton planted in 1903, 14,000,000 acres were cultivated by white labor. Fifty-eight per cent of the work of cotton planting is done by white people, and 42 per cent is done by colored people and yet men will argue that Southern progress is founded on negro labor. The truth is that the South is learning to get along without the negro, and the negro is becoming less valuable as a laborer rapidly and in about equal proportions, and the farther we get from dependence on the negro for anything the better it will be for both races; when we do our own work it will be done better and the negro will then begin to work for himself instead of laboring merely for his daily bread. White people are now doing 58 per cent of the work negroes could do and though the conclusion does not necessarily follow, it is true that the negroes do not more than 42 per cent as much work as they could do.—Charlotte Chronicle.

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