

MOVE THE COTTON CROP SLOWLY.—By President Harvie Jordan, of Georgia.

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MOVE THE COTTON CROP SLOWLY.

President Harvie Jordan Urges Cotton Farmers to Act Together, Store Their Cotton, and Market During a Ten Months, Instead of a Three Months, Period.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

I have been very much interested in reading the recent editorials and articles published in The Progressive Farmer, relative to the best ways and means for handling the cotton crop on the markets by the producers. The old method of ginned and packed, thereby creating an enormous oversupply during a short period of time, must be abandoned if the producers expect to force the payment of fair and equitable prices at the hands of the buyers.

THE WAREHOUSE SYSTEM.

Realizing that a slow movement of the crop was absolutely essential to the maintenance of good prices, I began a crusade on that line in 1900, by organizing the Southern Cotton Growers Protective Association in all the largest cotton producing States. I advocated the adoption of the warehouse system and secured the co-operation of Southern Bankers Associations in the matter of advancing seventy-five per cent of the current value of cotton on warehouse receipts. This system has been gradually growing since that time, and thousands of farmers are now holding their cotton and selling it slowly who used to rush it on the market as fast as ginned.

Last week at a meeting of the Texas Farmers Congress, at College Station, Texas, a convention of 1,200 cotton producers endorsed the cotton warehouse plan and will begin to inaugurate a system of moving the crop slowly in all parts of that State. Another big meeting of Texas producers, representing a union of 100,000 cotton growers in that State, will be held at Fort Worth on August 6th to adopt a plan of moving the crop slowly this fall.

I was invited to Mississippi in April last to discuss the same proposition before several hundred farmers, and will go to Montgomery, Ala., on August 4th upon the same errand. In my own State, Georgia, the plan of warehousing cotton and using the receipts to borrow money from the banks, so as to be able to hold back some of the cotton crop, is rapidly growing in popularity, and all those who have held their cotton until

after the rush in the fall during the past few years, have made good money.

ORGANIZATION NECESSARY

United concert of action among the producers is necessary to the success of marketing cotton for good prices. The holding back of a few thousand bales by a few thousand farmers will have but little effect.

But if the policy of selling only one-tenth of the crop each month is adopted and steadfastly adhered to, then we should easily sell the present maturing crop at 12 cents per pound. If no concerted action on the part of the farmers is entered into, then we may look for 8 cent cotton.

The spinners are thoroughly organized and will exercise every imaginable plan known to human ingenuity to depress prices this season. Farmers who need some money to meet maturing obligations can warehouse a part of their crop and borrow what money they need from the banks on warehouse receipts. Others who are in better shape financially can hold part of their crops on their farms, taking care to house it well from the weather. Those who are forced to sell will then find a stronger, healthier market, than if all the cotton were dumped on the market at once.

FINANCING THE SITUATION.

The banks have to furnish the money to move the cotton crop no matter whether through the hands of the buyers or producers. It takes more money to handle the crop when thrown on the market quickly than if the crop were held back and marketed slowly, because farmers would not borrow or need the full value of their cotton. Hence, the situation can be more easily financed if the cotton is largely held in the hands of the producers than if the cotton is bought up and held in storage for the spinners.

When the crop is marketed rapidly on the prices offered by the buyers, depression is caused by heavy receipts. The price of cotton goes down, not because the staple is of less value for spinning purposes, but because heavy receipts indicate a disposition on the part of the farmers to sell at any price offered, and the buyers take advantage of the situation.

This question of marketing the crop slowly is a most serious one, because upon its speedy adoption depends the power and ability of the producers to maintain prices.

ST. LOUIS MEETING.

The Farmers' National Congress will meet at St. Louis on September 26th, and be in session five days in the large auditorium of the big Agricultural building in the Exposition grounds. Delegates from all the Southern States will attend this meeting, and I have deemed it advisable also to call an Inter-State meeting of Southern cotton producers to meet at the same time, on a date during that week to be decided on hereafter, and discuss ways and means for checking the determination of the spinners to depress prices this fall.

Each Southern State should send a large delegation to this meeting at St. Louis the last week in September, and these delegations should come together, fully discuss the situation, and organize for the purpose of carrying out whatever

plans may be adopted. We have the prospect of making a full crop and unless the producers decide upon some definite action relative to a slow marketing of the crop, I very much fear the price of the staple may be depressed to 8 cents per pound, though it is worth fully 12 cents.

HARVIE JORDAN,

President Farmers' National Congress.
Monticello, Ga., July 21, 1904.

Cotton Farmers' Meeting in Raleigh Next Week.

There will be a conference of cotton farmers at the Farmers' Convention, A. & M. College, Raleigh, Tuesday, August 2nd, at 5 p. m. Let there be a large attendance from every cotton growing county in the State. Questions of vital importance to the cotton growers will be considered.

T. B. PARKER,

Secretary Farmers' State Alliance.

Succeeding With Late Irish Potatoes.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

Have been much interested in the ideas presented in your paper relative to Irish potato culture. As I was raised in a Northern State where "murphies" are grown very extensively, will be able to give some idea of the industry as carried on there. In many places the Irish potato forms the bulk of a farmer's crop, as cotton does here.

I notice your correspondent last week, and others I have read, say to let potatoes turn green and sprout before planting. I think this is a mistake, as it is unnatural for this green condition to exist. It only comes as a result of exposure to light, which an Irish potato should not be subjected to at any time.

I am reminded of the way grocers in the South expose potatoes in their stores, until they turn green and are strong and unfit for food. Keep Irish potatoes in the dark.

To sprout Irish potatoes before planting is certain to cause many to fail to grow. This is the reason your correspondent of last week says to allow for a failure of one-half to grow.

If the seed is good and ground in good condition, there is no reason why late potatoes should not do nearly, if not quite, as well as early ones.

For a late crop the late varieties should be planted, as early varieties planted late will not do as well, neither will late ones planted early.

Attention to a few points will insure plenty of Irish potatoes in the South, and with the same conveniences for storing them as are used in the North, the South need not continually pay big prices for Northern seed. Every farm house at least should have a good roomy cellar. And a cellar is so easy to make in this climate where frost is not so severe and searching.

In my father's cellar we often found it necessary to put up a heater to save our fruit and vegetables from freezing, and the walls were of stone a foot thick too. If it is desired I will give some further points on Irish potato culture, which were picked up in its natural element, the sandy fields of the North.

E. R. ALLEN.

Stanly Co., N. C.