

SOUTHERN COTTON GROWERS' PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.

Its Objects and Plans Explained by Secretary-Treasurer Jno. P. Allison.

Messrs. Editors:—Thanking you for the valuable space in your paper offered me to give a write-up of our Association, and its late meeting, I will say, we are now on the eve of a new era, with new life and renewed vigor. I will leave off the trip from home to the great Fair, as every account I have seen pictured the beautiful fields and landscapes along the railroads and will confine this letter to the doings of our Association.

We have done very little for the past two years on account of the speculators taking our side of the cotton market and putting the price up to a living basis for the farmer; that, you know, is the prime object of our Association, so when cotton is high there is no necessity for us to spend time and money on meetings, but we have been on the lookout all the while, and are ever mindful of the fact that speculators are our friends only when they can use us. Now they are already preparing a campaign against us, hence our renewed activity at this time, and I wish to say this is an opportunity for the cotton producers of the South to be masters of the situation, and is for them to say whether they want to regulate the prices of their products, or for some one, who cares not for their hardships and privations. I take it they have had pictures enough of the situation, so will return to the subject.

The Cotton Growers' Protective Association was organized just four years ago, with the same president, Hon. Harvie Jordan, and myself as secretary and treasurer, who were re-elected in St. Louis. Its object is to devise ways and means whereby the price of cotton and cottonseed can be maintained on a profitable basis to the producers: that is our whole object, our enemies to the contrary notwithstanding.

To show our liberality and that it is not a close corporation, I will give Article 7 of the Constitution: "All white persons engaged in the business of farming, banking, merchandising, ginning, warehousing, manufacturing and other industrial enterprises or professions, who are willing to unite with this movement for the purposes it has in view, are eligible to membership or to hold office in this Association." This broad door of membership will relieve us from the suspicion of narrow-mindedness or selfishness; for should we succeed in our endeavors, the benefits would accrue to all professions and conditions of men of our country. The St. Louis meeting of our Association was quite full, and almost every State represented. The first day was taken up with speech-making. I will not go into detail for they were all good, and to give you the best parts of them would require an extra edition of your paper, but I will say Mr. T. B. Parker's was as good as the best, and he spoke

in no uncertain tones of his loyalty and the progress of the Old North State.

The only business of the first day was the election of officers and the appointment of a committee to investigate the different plans submitted for managing the cotton problem. This committee spent until midnight hearing the different advocates of their plans, and accepted one proposed by Judge Williams, of Waco, Texas, and known as the "Waco Plan," which was submitted to the Association next day and adopted.

I will only give an outline of the plan from memory, as I have not the papers here. It is to form a stock company and issue certificates of stock in shares of ten dollars each, so that small farmers can have an interest in the Association. After as much as possible can be raised that way (which we hope will be sufficient to give us a large banking capital), then get stock companies to build warehouses in their respective markets for the storage of all surplus cotton; these houses to be built on the most approved plans so as to command the lowest rates of insurance and issue warehouse receipts to be indorsed by the Association to procure money on the lowest rates of interest.

Mr. Edmonds, of the Baltimore Manufacturers' Record, took quite an interest in our meeting, and commended our course. He introduced a resolution inviting the Textile Union of Manchester, England, to visit our country, and asked them to unite with us in our movement.

I hope I have made this clear to your readers. I have been so busy since my return that I have hardly had time to get this prepared.

JNO. P. ALLISON,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Concord, N. C.

The Boll Weevil

In the World of To-Day, Mr. C. Arthur Williams gives the history of the boll weevil up-to-date, tells of the vigorous efforts being made to extirpate it, and points out that materially higher prices for raw cotton, and, therefore, for the manufactured product will inevitably be the result of its continued advance. The facts, as we find condensed in the Washington Post, are that the weevil entered Texas from Mexico in 1894, and in the ten years which have elapsed since then has spread over a territory containing about 30 per cent of the total cotton acreage of the country which produced, in 1900, about 35 per cent of the total crop of the United States, or approximately one-fourth of the crop of the whole world for that year. In 1903, according to a census publication to which Mr. Williams calls attention, the insect destroyed 739,360 bales of cotton in Texas, the value of which the Census Bureau placed at \$49,272,989.61. The estimates of the Department of Agriculture are lower than this, but it is obvious that the cause of even a fraction of the enormous loss which these figures represent must be regarded as an extremely dangerous enemy. Mr. Williams figures that the total loss to the agricultural interests of the United States through insect pests is about \$350,000,000 annually, and therefore, concludes that the damage to cotton from the weevil is proportionately much heavier than to the other crops from all the other pests combined.—Charlotte Chronicle.

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