

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

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"HOLD YOUR COTTON" IS THE WATCHWORD!

Mass Meeting of Growers to be Held at Every County Court-house in the South Next Saturday, Dec. 17th—North Carolina and South Carolina Join Texas and Other States Follow—Situation Discussed by Harvie Jordan, T. B. Parker, H. F. Freeman, Ransom Hinton, A. P. Rhyne and Others.

In pursuance to the request of my associates I hereby issue call for mass meetings in every county in all the cotton States east of the Mississippi River; to meet at 11 o'clock, a. m., Saturday December 17th, there to determine by resolution on the part of the holders of spot cotton to refuse to sell the same until prices advance to ten cents per pound. We must absolutely tie up between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 bales of this crop, and if necessary hold it over till next season, and reduce the cotton acreage 25 per cent. The South cannot profitably produce cotton at the present depression in prices. Chairmen of different county meetings will please advise me of action taken and number of bales that can and will be held to force an advance in prices. Texas and the territories will stand firm.

Daily and weekly press will please copy.

Respectfully,

HARVIE JORDAN,

President Southern Cotton Growers' Protective Association.

Resolutions by North Carolina Board of Agriculture.

At the regular meeting of the North Carolina State Board of Agriculture held in Raleigh last week, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, the Government report on present cotton crop indicates a crop of 12,162,000 bales, which has caused a decline in prices of ten dollars per bale, and which would entail a loss to the South, if present prices continue, of more than \$40,000,000; and,

"Whereas, it is not too late for cotton farmers to rescue themselves from the great loss threatening by judiciously selling only so much of the remainder of their cotton as the markets of the world actually need, carrying any surplus that may be over to next year instead of selling to speculators and allowing them to carry it over; therefore be it

"Resolved by the Board of Agriculture now in session, that we deem it wise for all cotton farmers to market the remainder of their crop slowly, and only at prices which are remunerative to them.

"2. To successfully carry out the purpose of this resolution, it is the sense of this board that there should be a decided curtailment of the acreage planted in cotton next year. Therefore we recommend that the cotton growers of every cotton-growing county meet in mass meeting to consider these questions that are of such vital importance to our people and take such action as they in their wisdom may deem best, as to holding a part of the present crop and curtailing the acreage to be planted next year, so as to bring that crop (together with the amount carried over) below 11,000,000 bales."

MASS MEETINGS CALLED FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

Go to Your County Seat Saturday, 17th, and Join Your Brother Farmers in a Movement for Self Protection.

"Greenville, Tex., Dec. 7, 1904.

"T. B. Parker, Raleigh, N. C.

"Mass meetings called on the 17th in every county in Texas, Indian Territory and Oklahoma to hold cotton. Suggest you call meeting in North Carolina for same purpose. Texas will hold.

"(Signed) E. S. PETERS."

"Monticello, Ga., Dec. 8, 1904.

"T. B. Parker, Raleigh, N. C.

"Call a mass meeting in each county of your State for December 17th to take action to hold cotton till prices advance. Texas will hold meetings.

"HARVEY JORDAN,
"President."

Messrs. Editors:—The foregoing telegrams explain themselves. Acting as requested, I most earnestly urge that the cotton farmers in every cotton-growing county in the

State assemble in mass meeting at their respective court-houses at 12 o'clock, on Saturday the 17th, to take action in regard to the present crisis in cotton.

As is well-known to all Progressive Farmer readers, there has been a very sharp and rapid decline in cotton since Dec. 3rd when the Government report of a probable crop of 12,162,000 bales was given out. At once the speculators began beating the price down until it reached about seven cents per pound, and they threatened to drive it still lower. In fact, they reduced the price one cent per pound, or \$5 per bale, before the farmers had time to turn around and realize the situation. But finally they did wake up to the true condition of affairs, so we may now look for a battle royal between them and the speculators as to who is to control the situation, the man who has the cotton or the man who has not got it.

This call for a mass meeting of the farmers is for the purpose of getting them together in purpose and action. The situation is a grave one and requires good judgment and firmness. It involves the prosperity of the South, not only of the farmers, but the people of every vocation from farm laborer to bank president.

There have been only about 6,200,000 bales of the present crop sold, therefore the buyers have not the situation in hand. The trade will demand at the very lowest estimate 4,300,000 bales more, and will take them at good prices provided the buyers cannot scare our farmers into selling at a low price.

For the remainder of the cotton crop to sell at the prices the speculator threatens, would mean a loss to the South of more than \$50,000,000. Are the farmers prepared for any such a loss? Are the merchants, manufacturers, bankers and tradesmen in every line willing to allow that much capital to be driven from our Southland? Then all should make common cause and all stand together ready to help when help is needed and maintain profitable prices for our chief industry and money crop.

The call sent out covers every cotton-growing State. Already we have received the assurance that Texas farmers would hold their cotton for better prices. I felt assured that our North Carolina cotton farmers

would stand by the Texas farmers in their stand for better prices, and so wired Mr. Peters.

In this fight we have everything to gain and nothing to lose, so we should enter into it with a determination to win; and win we will, if we will but stand together.

We have strong friends in the bankers, the merchants, the newspapers and in nearly every class. They are all in sympathy with us, and are standing by us as one man. The newspapers are open to our friends for letters, and the correspondents and editors are striking sledge-hammer blows in our behalf. Then let us not waver, but show our determination and manhood as we did in the days of the jute bagging trust. The victory that we won then should prove to be a means of strength to us now. It proved that farmers can, and will, stand together when the oppressor arbitrarily lays his hands upon them, and demands tribute or proposes to rob them of their just earnings.

The farmers have the situation in hand if they only will use good judgment and not allow themselves to be routed. Only some 6,200,000 bales of the present crop of cotton has been sold, and the farmers hold the balance of the crop.

The world was bare of cotton when the season opened, and every one at all familiar with conditions said it would require a 11,000,000 bale crop to meet the demands of the trade and that a larger crop could be taken at remunerative prices to the farmer. If the trade demands 11,000,000 bales to meet its demands, it must get the remaining four and a half millions or more from the farmers. Let them exercise the same good judgment in selling the remainder of their cotton crop that they would in selling their farm, stock, etc., by asking a fair price for it and not sell until it is given.

In my opinion, there is no need to sell cotton for less than ten cents per pound. To be sure, the price will not go up to that in a week, nor in a month, unless speculators have sold more cotton than they can deliver without going on the markets and buying it. If they have, and must buy, the price will go up very rapidly. But we need not depend on that. Simply wait until the manufacturers have worked up the stock they have

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