

## WOULD REMEDY COTTON PRICES

DR. JNO. W. OVERTON OF SWEETWATER OFFERS SUGGESTION AND PLAN TO RAISE PRICE OF COTTON

## BELIEVES A STAMP ACT WOULD FURNISH REMEDY

Would Have Hon. W. R. Smith Our Present Congressman, to Introduce a Bill Embracing This Plan—Believes His Plan is Much Better Than That Offered in Recent Proposed Methods

We have the following article from Dr. J. W. Overton, of Sweetwater, which we take pleasure in publishing that our readers may get his views of the situation, and his remedy.

He writes as follows:  
Sweetwater, Tex., Nov. 23, 1911.  
Governor Colquitt,  
Commissioner, Kene,  
Editors,  
Ft. Worth Record,  
Lubbock Avalanche and  
Sweetwater Reporter.

Your earnest endeavor, laudable efforts, and praise worthy intentions to raise the price of cotton, challenge, deserve and receive the unqualified admiration and endorsement of, not only all Texas and Southerners, but all fair minded people everywhere. The cotton raiser is ground between the upper and nether mill stones of the cotton spinner and necessity, until there is no longer room for argument, and manhood cowers and begs for mercy.

The world needs all the cotton we can raise. But the cotton spinners, like free booters and high way robbers, using the power of money and taking advantage of the poor cotton raiser, are pounding down the price of cotton below a living wage. So your efforts, logical editorials and the magnificent speech of Clarence Ousley at New Orleans have availed naught. Your plan to reduce the production only places a premium on dishonesty, for he who curtails his acreage, and by means of a short crop increase the price of cotton, receives less than he who promises to plant less and plants more. I therefore, disclaiming all hope of political reward, and with an eye single only to public good, offer you a solution, and beg of you that you will lend to plan the mighty influence of your great names, assuring you that my plan will make twelve cent cotton a reality, thereby restoring prosperity to the South, and by that action creating in this country of ours a prosperity such as was never known before.

My plan is simply this: A stamp tax of five cent per pound on middling cotton sold at less than twelve cents a pound, other grade to pay a five cent tax at a proportionate price, a man will not buy cotton at nine cents when he knows a surcharge of five cents will be made for stamps, making fourteen cents, he had rather pay twelve cents and avoid the stamp tax. Now of course, the enemy of the farmer says, "But the farmer pays the tax." Now sir, no such thing, every country where there is a stamp tax, the law says, "The seller shall affix stamps on invoice", but the seller always charges them to the purchaser. In Mexico, for example, there is a stamp tax of three cents for every five dollars or fraction thereof, on all invoices over twenty dollars an invoice always

and invariably reads:  
200 kilos cotton at 25 cents kilo, equal \$50.00  
Stamps .30  
Total \$50.30

There is no mercantile or industrial establishment in the whole of that republic, but that charges the stamps to the purchaser, even though the law says, "The seller shall affix the stamps." Stamp taxes have always been unpopular in this country, because the tax was not paid by the purchaser, but in this case millions of people will enthusiastically advocate the tax and vox populi is vox dei. You may say the Southern Congressmen are in the minority and cannot pass the law. I say, no great victory was ever won without a struggle. The Kansas farmer knows that if we must lose money raising cotton that we will raise corn, wheat, oats, potatoes and hay and fatten cattle, and that under such conditions he cannot sell his surplus products, therefore, he will help us pass a law to this effect, the automobile manufacturers of Detroit know how they sold automobiles to prosperous Kansas, and the vision of a prosperous South would mean to them an increased out-put, a Detroit of a million population, and he would see that all Michigan voted for a stamp tax of five cents a pound on all cotton sold for less than twelve cents, so with Pennsylvania, her great steel industries, seeing the business to be acquired in the South where labor is recruited at a living wage would vote for our stamp tax of five cents a pound "on middling cotton sold for less than twelve cents per pound."

This is not a party question, — destroy our Southland, and grass will grow in the streets of Pittsburgh and Bethlehem, and birds will build nests in the sky scrapers of New York and Chicago. The Great Isaac Newton never leaped to his conclusions regarding the law of gravitation by simply observing the fall of an apple, the apples fall suggested the thought and aroused the inquiry, but it required years of patient toil and unremitting energy before the great discovery was complete, and in all the fullness of its sublimity startled the philosophical world. So I have studied this question. My plan is:

"No sapling chance shown at Bentade, blooming in summer, in winter to fade," it is the product of midnight oil, it has been laboriously prepared. I have studied every objection and stand ready to defend it in the newspaper form or on the hustings, I feel that, poor advocate as I am, my cause is so just, my plan is so simple, that I can defend it against any and all assailants.

The cotton spinner says: "If the South cannot produce cotton at present prices, why do they

continue to plant it?" My answer is this: Mr. Cotton Spinner, your wife dresses in silks and satins, the cotton raiser's wife wears plain calico at five cents per yard; your wife puts on silk hose at five dollars per pair, the cotton raiser wears cotton stockings worth "two pair for a quarter;" the cotton spinners wife has a secretary, a cook a hairdresser, and a chamber maid, the cotton raiser's wife is wash-woman, cook and milkmaid; the cotton spinners wife rides in an automobile, the cotton raiser's wife rides in a farm wagon; the cotton spinners wife has a check book, the farmer's wife takes eggs and butter to market to help pay the grocery bill; the cotton spinners wife lives in luxury, the cotton raiser's wife does the chores and helps her husband make both ends meet.

I believe, gentlemen, as surely as it was the duty of the North to emancipate the slaves it is our duty to emancipate the wives and daughters of the cotton raisers. I personally am powerless, but I have suggested to you the plan, with your influence we can change conditions in this country and procure for every farmer twelve cents for every pound of cotton he raises.

Now let me suggest that one of our present congressmen, backed by a campaign of education, inaugurated by you gentlemen introduce a bill the next Congress, carrying this plan into effect. Personally, I would like to have the bill introduced by Hon. W. R. Smith, the able and brilliant representative of this district. If the bill fails to pass, then we will let one of the congressmen at large from the State of Texas be nominated on this platform and have him make his campaign on this measure. We will find our leader. We want no political has-been, no ex-this or that, but a man fresh from the people, a man of sterling integrity, of unswerving patriotism, martyr faith, and unquestionable devotion to the cause that we advocate. The leader will arise. If we want a newspaper man, Clarence Ousley will fill the bill. If we want a banker, Thomas Trammell or O. L. Slaton, of Lubbock, are equal to the occasion. If we want a ranchman, A. B. Robertson of Slaton is our man. If we want a doctor, and a West Texas doctor at that, we have a man, mentally and morally, the equal of any man in the State of Texas, who would fill the office with credit and honor, and lead our cause to a glorious victory, his name is Dr. P. C. Coleman, he lives at Colorado, Texas.

Gentlemen, I have done my part I have suggested the means, you have the power to use them. Get busy, give this plan to the associated press, call a great convention to meet at Fort Worth, Dallas, or Sweetwater, advise other states to do likewise, and let us use all honest and honorable means to emancipate the southern cotton raiser by making twelve cent cotton a reality, now and for ever more.

Yours for Twelve Cent Cotton.  
JOHN W. OVERTON  
P. S. The scheme for a \$50,000,000 syndicate to hold off the market 2,000,000 bales is not half as good as my plan, for my plan will hold off the market, at least 6,000,000 bales, therefore it is at least three times as effective.

JOHN W. OVERTON.  
B. T. Johnson, of Canyon, was here the latter part of last week. While in the city he was a pleasant caller at this office, and moved his subscription date up on our list a year in advance.

## FIRE AT SLATON

Thomas Tank and Cornice Works Destroyed by Fire 30th —Loss \$1,000

The Slatonite gives the following account of fire in that village last week:

"Early last evening the building occupied by the Thomas Tank & Cornice Works, together with all its contents, was destroyed by fire. The flames were discovered and the alarm turned in at about 6:30 o'clock, but the fire had gained such headway that it was impossible to check it or to save any of the contents of the building.

"The building was owned by C. B. Thomas, proprietor of the Thomas Tank & Cornice Works, he having recently purchased same from W. W. Compton. The loss on building and contents is estimated at near \$1,000, which, we understand, was partially covered by insurance. Mr. Thomas was away from home at the time of the fire, having left only a short while before for Lubbock.

"The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is supposed to have caught from spontaneous combustion.

"That portion of the city has been very unfortunate of late in having fires, this being the second disaster that it has suffered within a period of two months, the former fire having originated in the Slaton Journal office and destroying it and two other buildings. It is fortunate, however, that the wind was not blowing hard on either occasion, for had it been, other buildings in the vicinity would likely have been destroyed also.

The Commercial Club at Memphis is at the head of an active movement that has for its object the construction of a railroad west from here. Capitalists who have been considering the proposition of financing the project were here recently. They were met by the most influential business men of the city in the rooms of the Commercial Club, where the proposition was discussed. Morgan Jones, a prominent railroad builder of Abilene, was very much interested in the proposed line and consented to go with a committee of citizens out over the western part of the State for the purpose of investigating crops and industrial conditions.

What's the use of buying goods made out of the state when we can just as well purchase Texas made articles? Texas factories can, and do, turn out just as good a product as the foreign factory. Such being the case it behooves us to patronize home industries, for when Texas enterprises thrive we—the community—the state—profit accordingly.

Texas today produces one-fifth of the world's supply of cotton, yet Texas has to purchase practically all their cotton goods from England and New England. This is an economic error. If not righted, it may, in future, develop into a financial tragedy.

Rev. J. M. Harder, of Plainview, was here last Thursday and was a pleasant caller at this office. He is financial agent for the Wayland College at Plainview, and reports everything moving along in good shape.

Boosting is an advanced, modern study in political economy. Boost for your own town and for "home trade."

R. W. Heim is spending a few days in Crosbyton this week putting up some tanks that he recently sold and delivered to Crosbyton parties.

## PUBLIC WORK PROGRESSING NICELY

WATER WORKS SYSTEM BEING INSTALLED AS FAST AS MEN AND MACHINERY CAN ACCOMPLISH THE TASK

## WATER WORKS PROBABLY COMPLETE JANUARY 15TH

All The Material for the Water Works System Has Been Shipped and With no Delay the Plant Will be in Operation by January 15th—City Well a Fine One—Other Improvements

With the present status of affairs before us, it looks very much like Lubbock is going to have a full fledged water works system within the next few weeks.

In conversation with Mr. Shaw the city secretary, he stated that there was nothing to hinder the rapid progress of the work now, so far as he is aware of. Every thing is in good working order and the city has been notified of the shipment of the entire amount of piping and other necessary material for the water works system, and it is expected that it will arrive as fast as it can be used by the construction gang. The tower and storage tank is about completed and work on the big concrete reservoir is being pushed with all possible haste. These two water storage equipments have a combined capacity of 256,000 gallons.

It is Mr. Shaw's belief that by the 15th of January 1912 the water can be turned into the mains and Lubbock will have one of the best systems of water supply on the Plains. Its capacity

is equal to that of cities much larger than Lubbock and a great deal better than in many of the towns that claim more population and greater wealth than this.

At the completion of the water system the contractors will enter immediately upon the work of putting in the sewerage system which will likewise be up-to-date in every particular.

Lubbock is very much alive. There is work here of some kind for every person who wants work, and is not too particular about what job he has.

The building in the business part of town goes merrily on. The First National Bank building is beginning to look like it will be ready for occupancy within a short time now, and the Caraway building along with the one adjoining it on the South is nearing completion and all will be occupied by the first of the year.

The contract will be let for the Lubbock Mercantile building Saturday, also the Cope and Vickers and the Morrow buildings on the South side of the square.

## OPPOSES DISCOUNT WARRANTS

Governor Colquitt Declares Tax Rate Fixed by Preceding Administration

- Austin, Tex., Dec. 2.—General revenue is on a deficiency basis and will probably continue in that condition through this month and part of January. Some local people are offering to shave pension warrants, and as a result Gov. Colquitt today addressed the following letter to D. J. Cartwright, Forest, Tex.:

"Your letter of Nov. 23, to which you attach circular letter of a report of a loan company of Austin, offering you \$10 for your Confederate pension warrant of \$10.50, which will be issued in December, is received.

"Unfortunately there was approximately a \$400,000 deficit in the State Treasury at the close of business Nov. 29, which was due entirely to the policy of the administration of Gov. Campbell, who used the Waters-Pierce Oil Company's fine to pay the expenses of the State Government and to enable himself to reduce the tax rate beyond what was required to meet the State's expenditures.

"Practically no money has been collected as yet and paid into the State Treasury on the tax rate for the present year. The 4 per cent tax rate on the assessments for 1910 was not enough to meet the expenses of the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 1911. The fiscal year, beginning Sept. 1, 1910, was commenced with \$1,424,641 in the State Treasurer but on account of the very low tax rate all this balance and all the tax rate produced was expended, and the State Treasury

began the fiscal year, commencing Sept. 1, 1911, practically with no money in the Treasury after August expenses were met and with a prospective deficit of \$500,000 or \$600,000, with a deficit also of something like \$225,000 in the expenses of the penitentiary system.

"The tax rate fixed by Gov. Campbell during the last year of his administration produced at least \$1,000,000 less than should have been raised. We have had to take care of this deficit in revenue by increasing the tax rate this year, but there will be ample money to pay your warrant within a short time without discount, and my advice to the holders of obligations against the State is not to discount them."

## Married

Monday evening at 7:00 o'clock at the residence of Emory Butler, Mr. O. J. Chamberlain and Miss Cordelia Logan were united in marriage. Judge Jno. R. McGee performed the ceremony in his usual impressive manner.

These people are not very extensively known in this part of the country, but the few that do know them recommend them very highly as good citizens and neighbors. Mr. Chamberlain has been a resident of Clovis, N. M. till recently he took up his abode in Post City where he and wife will reside in the future.

Miss Logan is a sister of Mrs. Butler, and came from Belleville Friday of last week.

The Avalanche extends best wishes to the couple.

M. M. Harney last week had his residence moved into town from the vicinity of Abernathy and has located it in the north west part of town.