

COTTON IS KING ONCE MORE.

Next to Greatest Crop on Record, with Price Up to Ten Cents, Means This Staple Has a Greater Annual Value Than Gold, Wheat or Corn.

Ten cent cotton, the South's dream of golden prosperity, which long seemed almost hopeless, has been realized. After many seasons of effort to adjust production to the five cent basis the necessity for so doing has suddenly been removed. Low prices have done their work by immensely stimulating the demand for cotton goods, and it is not likely that a return to cheap rates will occur, at least for a long time to come, says the New York Herald. With cotton higher than it has been in years the demand is stronger than it ever has been before.

The sharp increase in demand has been an encouragement to speculative dealing, and cotton once more takes its place beside wheat and stocks as a medium for speculation. In a single week recently nearly \$25,000,000 worth of cotton changed hands on the New York exchange, an amount greater than the value of all the cotton in the country at that time.

Americans are apt to look upon wheat as the greatest of all crops, but it is a fact that taking into account all climates and countries, cotton is the most important crop in the world. It is a fact also that the United States supplies a large proportion of all the cotton that is used, a far greater proportion than comes from any other country. The cotton belt of the United States extends over about ten degrees of latitude, including eleven States and Territories, in which it forms the chief staple, while it is raised to some extent in half a dozen other commonwealths.

This region measures something like six hundred thousand square miles, of which about twenty million acres are devoted to raising cotton. It contains a population of upward of ten million people, while it is safe to say that ten million more depend for their prosperity, directly or indirectly, upon the cotton industry. Taking into consideration the cotton spinning mills, as well as the cotton raising industry, cotton becomes of a greater annual money value to the United States than gold, wheat or corn.

It is a mistake to suppose that the present high price of cotton is the result of a crop failure. The yield of last year, 10,500,000 bales, exceeds any crop raised in this country, with the exception of the two previous seasons, which produced phenomenal yields of over 10,000,000 bales each. The falling off of 1,500,000 bales therefore should be construed merely as a return to normal production, but the vast increase in the number of uses for the product has made this normal crop virtually an under supply.

At the low prices which prevailed for the three seasons preceding the present year, cotton was so cheap that a score of new uses, never dreamed of before, were found for it. It has been used in making rugs, mattresses and sheetings, and has been mixed with wool or linen to form half a dozen fabrics, each of which has its own name.

Under the impetus of the great demand caused by the increase of the number of uses for which cotton was used, the world's supplies multiplied twice as rapidly during the last three years as they had during any like

period previously. The world's consumption of cotton grew from 10,000,000 bales in 1896 to 12,000,000 bales in 1899. The vast additional production which these figures indicate was taken up by the great growth in consumption due largely to the shipping of low priced goods to Japan, China and the other Asiatic countries. Meanwhile the crops of the other great cotton growing countries, India and Egypt, had not increased to any material extent, and the growth in the world's demand has been largely left to be satisfied by American cotton fields.

While no great increase in the acreage devoted to cotton growing is likely to take place, the production will be encouraged by more up-to-date methods of planting, cultivating, ginning and packing, and these, with the high prices which seem likely to prevail for several seasons to come, foretell a period of prosperity for the South such as the magnificent yields of wheat and corn have brought to the West.

During the entire period of depression in the cotton growing regions production has been adjusted to a low level of cost, which will make the industry profitable even at a lower price than that which now prevails. It took the South a good many years to learn that the method of raising cotton which prevailed before the war was not suited to the changed conditions which followed that conflict.

Great plantations, manned by expensive labor, are not likely again to become profitable in the South. Cotton is now grown almost exclusively by small farmers, men who own or rent farms, or who work on shares the pieces of land belonging to the proprietors of large plantations. These men put their own labor into the soil, and by careful cultivation make the most of each acre.

About the only assistance they need to employ is in the picking. The picking season, which is now on, means as much to the labor of the Southern States as harvesting does to those of the wheat belt.

Cotton raising is by no means a matter unattended by work and worry. From the time when the seed is put into the ground—in the South Atlantic States about the middle of April—until the picking is over in October or early in November, the planter is compelled to be constantly on the alert against the many enemies of his crop, and never knows until the fluffy down is safely housed whether his crop is to be a success or not.

Rust and blight may descend upon it when the prospect is of the fairest. If there is a continuous drought the leaves and bolls of the plant fall off. If there is too much rain after the boll opens the cotton rots. The cut worm eats the tender sprouts, the boll worm devours the heart of the plant, while other crawling and flying pests are likely to fall upon it and turn an entire season's work into waste within a week. It may be truly said that eternal vigilance is the price of success in raising cotton.

Cotton seed is sown in rows by a machine called the "planter." When the plants are well above ground they are thinned out by cutting a part of the sprouts, and the ground between the rows is gone over with a cultivator several times until the bolls are on the plant. Then the rows are filled up,

Any Children?

Then we'll guarantee they have hard colds. No child escapes. It's either a hard cold, the croup, bronchitis, or the whooping-cough. There's but one remedy. It's just what your grandmother always kept in the house—Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, the family cough medicine.

Three sizes: No. 1, enough for an ordinary child; No. 2, just right for asthma, bronchitis, hoarseness, whooping-cough, hard colds, croup, most economical for chronic cases.

After which the future of the crop must be left to the weather and a benign Providence until the season for picking arrives.

This is the gala time of the South-ern dandy. Young and old of both sexes pour into the fields and with bags over shoulders, move up and down the long rows, seizing the cotton from the bolls with deft hands as they walk along.

The amount of cotton that one can pick in a day depends largely upon the experience of the picker, but partially also upon the condition of the crop. A light crop makes slow picking, and conversely, an abundant crop makes the task of gathering an easy one. A live-ly worker will gather about two hundred pounds of cotton in a day, although these frequently are cases where as much as three or four hundred pounds have been picked by a single worker.

The cotton pickers are sharing in no light degree the general prosperity of the South. The average wages paid to the pickers have been from forty to fifty cents per hundred, and conversely, an abundant crop makes the task of gathering an easy one. A live-ly worker will gather about two hundred pounds of cotton in a day, although these frequently are cases where as much as three or four hundred pounds have been picked by a single worker.

From the weighing baskets and the storehouses the cotton is hauled on day wagons to the gin. Most of the gins in use in the South are of the old pattern invented by Eli Whitney, with only a few modern improvements. This machine separates the fibre by tearing it from the seed by means of a series of circular saws with fine teeth.

It is then placed in a condenser, from which it emerges in thin, gauzy sheets ready for baling. It has been asserted by Edward Atkinson and other investigators that from \$2 to \$3 per bale would be added to the value of cotton if it was ginned according to more scientific methods and baled with greater care. There is no doubt that growing prosperity will mean the adoption of better machinery and more up to date methods in handling cotton.

Five hundred pounds of cotton is supposed to go into a bale. It is packed together by a press and encircled by six hoops of iron. In this form it is carried away to market, turned over to the factor or commission merchant, and by him shipped to its destination, going chiefly to the looms of old and New England.

The cotton raising industry has been largely controlled by these commission merchants. It has been their custom to advance money to the planters, taking as their security the prospective crop. In this way cotton raisers have been kept largely dependent upon them, and they have been able to make a good



THREE LEADING FIGURES IN THE CANADIAN ELECTION, NOV. 7.

Sir Wilfred Laurier, the premier, is the leader of the Liberals. Sir Charles Tupper is the leader of the Conservatives. He is very old, however, and his most active lieutenant is Hugh John Macdonald, son of the late Sir John Macdonald, who was for years the great Conservative leader.

profit on most of the cotton which passed through their hands.

At the present time, however, the planters are coming more to rely upon their own efforts, and when they have realized their independence of the "general store" and the commission merchant they will be able to obtain a better return upon their investments.

Two other factors promise to add to the prosperity which is likely to come to the South from its most important crop. One of these is the growing demand which exists for what were formerly the waste products of the crop. At the present time the value of cotton seed is little less than that of the cotton itself.

Within a few years the export of cotton-seed oil has grown from nothing to upward of 15,000,000 gallons, while the total production of the United States now exceeds 45,000,000 gallons, adding to the resources of the country more than \$50,000,000 per year. This is entirely aside from the uses which have been found for cotton-seed products—as food for cattle and as fertilizers—which uses in themselves represent a value of several million dollars.

The other development which is adding immensely to the prosperity of the South is the growth of the cotton spinning industry. Instead of shipping its cotton to Liverpool or New England, as formerly, the South now works up its own raw material. Nearly five hundred cotton mills are now in operation within the limits of the cotton belt, running five million spindles, representing an investment of \$150,000,000, and consuming annually 1,500,000 bales of cotton, or about one-seventh of the entire cotton crop.

This growth of the manufacturing industry side by side with the fields of production is one of the most encouraging signs for the industrial outlook of the South. It means millions of dollars in profit kept at home and in wages paid out to operators, and it means diversity of interests, which is the best assurance of continued prosperity.

OUR TROOPS IN CHINA.

Observations of a Line Officer With the American Army—Valor and Eagerness of the Little Japanese Soldiers in the Fray, Their Part in the March and Relief of Peking.

Special Correspondence.

Peking, Sept. 15.—In the march to Peking and the relief of the beleaguered legations the soldiers of Japan bore a conspicuously heroic part, their valor and eagerness for the fray being notable features of the campaign. Incidentally these little Japanese are the finest soldiers in the world. They are litel in stature, but mighty in deeds. They seem to be absolutely without fear of death. They are intensely patriotic, and there is no army in the world which has a more modern or a more complete equipment. To illustrate, I was talking to an officer the other evening, and I asked after what country the Japanese tactics were copied. He responded: "After many. At first we tried the German, then the French, then the English, but now we have the Japanese." Thus their country has tried every system, has evolved or has gleaned, I should say, the best points from each, and now they have a system best suited to their needs.

The system of choosing their officers is unique, but at the same time productive of the best results. Once a year

competitive examinations are held, literary and mathematical in character, throughout the empire. All young able-bodied men, be they sons of the emperor or of a blacksmith, may compete. A certain number are chosen and serve for a period of one year in the ranks, three months as a first class private, two as a corporal and the balance of the year as a sergeant. At the end of this time another examination is held, and if the candidate passes it successfully he is admitted to the military academy, where he is instructed in the profession of arms and the duties of an officer for a further period of 18 months. At the end of this time another examination is held, and in the event of its being passed the candidate is placed in the regular army on probation for a period of six months, then advanced according to merit.

At the storming of Tien Tsin the Japanese troops succeeded in laying a mine before the principal gate and in lighting the fuse, but for some unaccountable reason the fuse burned down to within an inch of the mine and then went out. Volunteers were called for to relight it, and the entire company stationed at that point responded. The man was selected, who ran up to the gate, lighted the fuse under a terrific small arm fire and then started to return, but the mine was too

quick for him, and they never found even a piece of his body.

While I was out on the duty carrying dispatches during the first day's fight the Japanese began to carry away their wounded, most of them hit in the extreme range by shrapnel. I passed the and after delivering my message to General Chao, who was well in advance, I started to return, and during my return trip I did not see a single wound. I saw only a few men, and from all the wounded I passed I saw only a single man. The dead seemed to be in little groups. The only fault I have in my method of fighting is that I could not find the bodies of the fallen.

While at Tien Tsin the first sergeant of our troops had been around the most serious articles. They were the sort of things as he brought in a quantity of little round stones, the finest silk and many little articles of the finest workmanship. I found for the first time a room at Tien Tsin, a French, Austro-Hungarian, Italian, Chinese, and a few others, and I found that wherever I went a few soldiers of our army were to be seen, and I found that they were to be seen in the most secret places, and I found that they were to be seen in the most secret places, and I found that they were to be seen in the most secret places.

Many people are suffering fearfully from indigestion or dyspepsia, what one single bottle of BELLARD'S HOPE-FOUND SYRUP is the great secret for all throat and lung troubles. Price 50 cents. Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

Never try to cure a cold or cough use the remedy that undoes all cures both. BELLARD'S HOPE-FOUND SYRUP is the great secret for all throat and lung troubles. Price 50 cents. Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

For all fresh cuts or wounds either on the human subject or on animals BELLARD'S SNOW EXTRACT is excellent while for corn-blisters sprains, warts, barbed-wire cuts and sores on working horses, it cannot be too highly commended. Price 25 and 50 cents. Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

CANNON BOOK STORE

Week Commencing November 12th.

WEEKLY SALE!

25% Discount on All Leather Goods

Consisting of Pocket Books, Card Cases, Gents' Dressing Cases and School Bags.

Ladies' and Gent's Pocket Books

AND CARD CASES

In Morocco, genuine and imitation, Alligator, Seal, Snake Skin, Monkey Skin, etc., in all the new designs and colors, at 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$3.00, \$4.00 and \$5.00.

Gent's Leather Dressing Cases,

WRITING SETS, PORTFOLIOS, DESK PADS and COLLAR and CUFF SETS, Etc. in all styles and qualities of leathers. All New Goods. Prices ranging from \$1.00 to \$20.00.

School Bags.

Bought Direct from the manufacturers for this season's trade, in Oil Cloth, Canvas, Leather, etc., at 25c, 35c, 40c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.50; Selling now at

19 CTS.

27c, 30c, 37c, 57c, 75c, 94c and \$1.12.

We carry a full line of School and College Text Books, Note and Composition Books, Pens, Pencils, Inks, Crayons, Etc. Best goods and best values in town.

CANNON BOOK STORE,

Sale on Medallions, Photo-Frames and Mirrors, continues for Another Week.

Successors to Geo. Q. Cannon & Sons Company, Deseret News Props.,

11-13 MAIN ST.