

Cotton Harvest Problem; Pickers Not Available; Prisoners of War Fail

GREENVILLE, Miss.—(ANP) Cotton fields all over the south are white with one of the greatest crops in history but unless labor conditions improve rapidly a considerable portion of it will remain unpicked. Financial loss to the section, to the growers and to labor will result. Several factors are involved in the situation which existed last year to some extent but which has grown steadily worse during the war.

Cotton picking has not been such a bad vocation during the war. Last year in some sectors pickers, Negro and white, earned as much as \$4 and \$4.50 a hundred, regarded as good pay by the workers and as exorbitant by the growers. Labor was scarce and planters had to pay pretty much the picker's prices.

This year, the department of agriculture, heeding the pleas of the growers that prohibitive and fluctuating picking prices were interfering with the orderly marketing of the fleecy crop to say nothing of playing hob with profits, stepped in and proposed a uniform price or ceiling. Farmers in various states including, presumably, owners, tenants and sharecroppers voted on the question of prices for cotton picking. As an aftermath of these efforts, the department of agriculture approved a ceiling on cotton picking of \$2.10 a hundred.

There are just not enough pickers to do the job. Thousands of the workers whose chief money during the year used to consist of what they made in seasonal jobs such as picking cotton, went off to the cities of the south or up north to take defense jobs. They have not come back. Even those whose jobs have run out are either resting from their war labors on the money they saved or existing on unemployment insurance funds, a new cushion which they had never been familiar with before since social security does not extend to agriculture. Meanwhile pickers working at the ceiling price of \$2.10 are angry and have a sullen feeling they ought to get more.

Planters in some states, particularly Arkansas, thought they had an ace in the hole by using German prisoners of war. The prisoners were a sad experience chiefly. The Germans picked from 20 to 80 pounds a day. In the meantime the big planters who imported prisoners must pay for their housing and food until January, plus their railroad fare.

The net result is that black market prices have sprung up in cotton picking. Mrs. Clara E. Kitts, manager of the U. S. Employment service, farm division, in Memphis, told ANP, "We are at a loss to know the exact reason we have not secured more workers to harvest the cotton crop than we have. No doubt lots of them have been working in defense plants and have accumulated savings and perhaps wish to shop around before returning to the farms. We have written to principals of colored schools, encouraging picking for students on Saturdays, also letters to colored ministers, asking for their cooperation and we still do not have the number we need."

A large Negro planter at Mound Bayou gave what is perhaps the best analysis of the situation. Not using his name for obvious reasons, he says:

"We have been very much concerned here about the ceiling price on cotton picking. As you doubtless know, this is a thing which the planters themselves asked the department of agriculture to help them do. When it was voted upon here in Mississippi, only landlords and those who were renting land were permitted to vote. The sharecroppers and the large group of day laborers who depend upon such jobs as cotton picking and chopping for a livelihood were not permitted to vote. The group that voted, voted overwhelmingly for a ceiling. It was passed on to the state board and set at \$2.10 per hundred.

"Now here is the interesting part of the whole thing. These same planters who voted for a ceiling price on cotton have been the first to violate the ceiling. They first started giving the cotton pickers their dinners along with the \$2.10 per hundred. Others would give a bonus of \$5 a bale. A very wealthy planter in Bolivar county, who has approximately 1000 acres of cotton on her plantation, is paying \$2.75 per hundred for cotton picking and supplying transportation.

"A test case was made out of this woman. A government agent, along with a local authority, called upon her, read a warrant and was supposed to have made an arrest. That was three weeks ago. She was not taken into custody, the case has not come to trial, and to date, absolutely nothing has been done about it. A white planter told me a few days ago that he doubted whether there were half a dozen planters in Bolivar county staying within the ceiling prices, despite the fact there is a government fine up to \$1,000 possible for violation.

Negro planters have had trouble because they have had to stay within the limit. The pickers go where they can get their price. If there had not been any ceiling price, cotton picking would have been about \$4 per hundred in the Mississippi delta this year. These same individuals who would have paid \$4 per hundred are getting their cotton picked for \$2.50 and \$2.75.

"Of course a sharecropper cannot pay \$4 a hundred for picking cotton and have anything to live on. It takes an average of 1400 pounds of seed cotton to make a bale of 500 pounds. The average bale which weighs 500 pounds brings from \$100 to \$125. It would cost the sharecropper \$56 per bale for the cotton which he would have to have picked and in some cases this would be more than his share in the bale, saying nothing about the year's work he has invested in the production of the cotton. It is sad to say but it is true that the sharecropper in the Mississippi delta has nothing to say about whether pickers are to be brought into his field. The decision is made solely by the planter and charged to the sharecropper's account.

"Looking at the whole problem from where I stand, it's a bad setup. It is my personal conviction that in view of the present price of cotton, \$2.50 per hundred and certainly not more than \$3 per hundred would be a fair price. I believe \$2.10 is too low. The farmers in the delta here are sick of this ceiling price and delta farm organizations are having weekly meetings to find some way to throw this ceiling price out or to get around it. It is being violated as often as the prohibition law under the Volstead act. I am convinced there will be no ceiling price next fall. Keep this in mind. It is the big farmer who was the first to violate the ceiling price and it is the big farmer who carries the price of cotton picking to prohibitive levels. This of course is a blow to the small planter whose volume will not permit him to pay these excessive prices.

WOMEN'S PAGE

FASHIONS RADIO RECIPES

WOW! The Mosetti Dancers



CLUB ACME—This trio of beauties are ringing the bell for entertainment at the Center of Fun, the popular Club Acme, N. Williams Avenue and Cherry Court in Portland. Tops in the show world, this bevy of pulchritude comes to Club Acme from a long engagement at Club Alabam in Los Angeles, and already have won many admirers in the City of Roses.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Johnson Williams



The marriage of Miss Vera D. Roland and Vernon Johnson Williams was solemnized at the home of her parents in Marshall, Tex., last Saturday. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Roland and the bridegroom is the son of Mrs. B. L. Williams, Austin, Texas.

Mrs. Williams is a graduate of Prairie View college. The bridegroom is a former student of Prairie View and recently was discharged from the 332nd Fighter group after having served for 22 months overseas.

—ANP Photo

Society News

By Ann Morrison and Heleena Searce

Mr. Owen Glover arrived home last week from Augustus, Ga. where he spent two months visiting relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Washington, formerly Audrey Freeman of Longview, Washington, are the proud parents of a daughter. The young lady arrived Sunday, December 2nd. Mr. and Mrs. Oliver of Portland are the proud Uncle and Aunt.

Mrs. Stanton Duke returned home last Sunday from a month's trip visiting in Texas. Mrs. Duke was accompanied home by her mother, Mrs. G. A. Howard of Texacana, Texas, who plans to spend the winter season in the city. While here she will spend part of her visit with her daughter, Mrs. Geo. Canada.

Mr. Julius Gary and Mr. Edward Benford are back in town again after serving in the army. Mr. Gary and Mr. Benford both were overseas, and now both men have received honorable discharges.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis write back to their Portland friends of their safe arrival home in Charleston, Mo. Mr. and Mrs. Davis were in defense work during the war period while they were house guests of Mrs. M. McClear.

Funeral services was held for Mr. Jesse Mays who died suddenly Sunday morning, December 2nd. Thursday, December 6th at the Holman and Lutz Colonial Mortuary with vault internments in Rose City Cemetery. He was uncle to Hazel Hawkins, Jewel Lewis, Donald Wilson, and Hortense Cummings.

DISTRICT DEPUTY VISITS DAHLIA TEMPLE NO. 202 DAUGHTER ELKS OF PORT.

Tuesday evening the Daughter Elks of Dahlia Temple No. 202 were treated to a real surprise by a visit from our new Dist. Deputy Daughter, Birdie Morris Johnson of Seattle, Washington. She made several suggestions and answered questions of interest to the lodge. Because of the wind and rain only a few Daughters were present to meet Daughter Birdie Morris Johnson. The Daughters are looking forward to another visit with our Dist. Deputy. While in the city she was the house guest of Daughter Minnie Turner Payne.

Our Dist. Deputy is over all, the Daughter Elks Lodges in Washington State which has four lodges, Oregon which has one, and Vancouver, B. C., also has one lodge.

"Babes Meal Planning Corner"

Presents From the Kitchen

Goodies of sugar and spice, quivery, fruit-sweet jellies and citron and cherry flaked fruit cakes — all these make wonderful presents.

Wrap them in gay Christmas wrappings and you'll have a gift that any one will be proud to receive.

A few days spent in the kitchen with a well-organized schedule will yield enough cookies, cakes and jellies to take care of any number of friends. They'll appreciate the thought and care you have taken in preparing something especially for them.

Many homemakers canned fruit juices last summer which they want to make into jelly now that they've saved enough sugar. A few jars of these colorful jellies will make excellent presents.

Grape Jelly.
(Makes 11 6-ounce glasses)

4 cups grape juice
3 1/2 cups sugar
3/4 cup light corn syrup
1/2 cup liquid pectin

Measure out the juice and place it in a large kettle with the sugar and syrup. Mix thoroughly. Bring to the boiling point and boil 3 1/2 minutes. Add liquid pectin, stirring constantly. Then bring again to a full rolling boil and boil hard 1/2 minute. Remove from heat, skim and pour into hot, sterile glasses. Paraffin at once.

Apple and Orange Marmalade.
(Makes 10 6-ounce glasses)

1 lemon
1 orange
3 pounds tart apples
3 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 cup water
3 cups corn syrup

Extract juice from lemon and orange and strain. Then grind the rinds of both fruits. Peel, core and slice apples 1/4 inch thick. Weigh out 2 pounds of the sliced apples, or measure out 2 quarts. Place juice and ground rind of lemon and orange together with sliced apples in a large kettle. Add sugar, water and syrup. Stir well, place over heat and bring to a boil. Simmer for 50 minutes, stirring frequently. Skim, pour into sterilized jars and seal immediately.

A tangy, well-flavored jelly is always handy to have with a roast or casserole. You will particularly like this one made with honey:

Lemon Honey Jelly.
(Makes about 6 glasses)

1/2 cup lemon juice
2 1/2 cups honey
1/2 cup liquid fruit pectin

Combine lemon juice and honey. Bring to a full rolling boil. Add pectin, stir vigorously and boil about 2 minutes. Pour into hot, sterile glasses. Cover with paraffin to seal.

Conserves and fruit butter will give nice variety to the home-packed gift. In both of the following recipes, slow cooking is recommended to allow the mixtures to reach a thickened consistency:

Baked Apple Butter.
(Makes 12 6-ounce glasses)

4 quarts quartered apples
3 cups water

LYNN CHAMBERS' MENUS

Scalloped Spaghetti with Chicken
Peach Nut Salad
Brussels Sprouts
Orange Bread Beverage
Applesauce Cake

LYNN SAYS

Make Your Own: When you are giving away homemade presents, go all-out on decorations. For fruit jars, make a wrapping of white cardboard and paste cheery Christmas stickers on them.

Select three or four jars of pretty colored jellies. Wrap them in paper and tie the tops all together with one long ribbon. Decorate with pine cones.

Fill a well-scrubbed fruit basket with luscious fruits, grapes and nuts. Deck it out with holly and a great big bow.

Use plain cardboard boxes for cookies and candies, and paste on colorful holiday paper. Finish off with ribbons, holly and pine cones.

Plump popcorn balls can be tied in gay wrappings. Leave a loop in the ribbon so they can be hung on the tree, if desired.

I cup cider
5 cups sugar
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon allspice
1/2 teaspoon cloves

Cook apples in water until soft. Force them through a colander. Add remaining ingredients. Cook in a slow (275-degree) oven for 8 hours, stirring every half hour. Seal in hot, sterilized glasses at once.

Pear Conserve.
(Makes 9 6-ounce glasses)

12 medium sized pears
1 1/2 cups pineapple
1 orange, juice and rind
4 cups sugar
4 cups corn syrup
1 small bottle maraschino cherries

Chop pears and pineapple. Add orange juice, rind, sugar and syrup. Let mixture stand overnight. Next morning cook slowly until thick, about 2 1/2 hours. Add chopped maraschino cherries and seal in hot, sterilized jars or glasses.

No gift to any family is complete unless there is something special tucked in for the youngsters. If you have used your quota of sugar on other Christmas baking, you will want recipes for a s u g a r e s s y sweets, like popcorn balls or peanut brittle that take only a little bit.

Special care should be used in wrapping these gifts for the children as they may want to hang them on the tree. Use plenty of ribbon and let them be gay with stickers.

Molasses Popcorn Balls.
(Makes 12 to 14 balls)

4 quarts popped corn
1 tablespoon butter
1 cup sugar
1 cup molasses
1/2 teaspoon salt

Melt butter, add sugar, molasses and salt. Boil on medium flame or heat until it reaches the crack stage (260 degrees). This is slightly harder than the hard ball stage. Pour over corn. Stir corn thoroughly while pouring syrup. Butter hands immediately and shape corn into balls. One cup of hulled peanuts may be added to the corn, if desired.

Peanut Brittle.

1 1/2 cups shelled peanuts
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup light corn syrup
1/2 cup water
1 1/2 tablespoons butter
1/2 teaspoon lemon extract

Sprinkle nuts with salt and warm in oven. Put sugar, corn syrup and water in a pan, stir until the mixture boils. Wash down sides of pan with wet pastry brush and cook until mixture is very brittle when tried in cold water. Add flavoring, butter and nuts. Turn into shallow greased pan. As soon as the candy can be handled pull and stretch it out as thin as possible. Break into irregular pieces.

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Clergyman Named Religious Editor

NEW YORK — (ANP) — The Rev. Winslow A. Beckles, well-known journalist, was appointed last week as religious editor of P. V., a local weekly. The Rev. Beckles has served as columnist on the paper for some time. He has served as editor of the Barbados Advocate weekly, the Chamber of Commerce Journal and is the author of "The Barbados Disturbances of 1937." He has studied sociology at Columbia University and is a member of the American Sociological Society. His academic training also includes a course of study in England with the Christian Industrial Fellowship of Westminster. He will carry on his new duties while serving as assistant minister of Mt. Zion A.M.E. church here.

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Prominent Baptist Leader Passes

NASHVILLE — (ANP) — Mrs. Jessie C. Mapp, prominent Baptist leader, vice-president of the woman's auxiliary to the National Baptist Missionary Training school, who died Saturday enroute from Memphis to Nashville, returning from the Arkansas Baptist State convention, was memorialized at the Spruce Street Baptist church Tuesday afternoon with Dr. A. M. Townsend, Sunday School Publishing board, officiating. The final funeral service was held at Olivet Baptist Church, Chicago, where she had been a member for 43 years, with Dr. J. H. Jackson, the pastor, officiating.

Prominent in Baptist circles, Mrs. Mapp served in many capacities with the Baptist General State convention of Illinois, the foreign mission board, the Sunday School Publishing board, the finance commission, and the women's auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A.

She is survived by her husband, J. H. Mapp, Chicago, a sister, Mrs. Fannie Stewart, Chicago, and a host of other relatives and friends.

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JINGLES TO STAGGER YOU!

THE BRIDGES' LAMENT

A BAD BREAK ON THE BROADWAY

The Broadway and Hawthorne Bridges were talking across the river. Said the Broadway to the Hawthorne, "These peak hours make me shiver."

"They give me that congested feeling, "And especially is this true "When a car breaks down in the middle of me " (or, say, in the middle of you.)"

"Then the drivers scowl and the horns do blow, "And everything comes to a stop "When everyone wants to be moving, "And everyone's ready to pop."

"Trucks, cars, delivery pick-ups, "Trolleys, busses . . . full to the brim, "Are stalled because of one breakdown, "And the whole blamed thing gets grim."

"And it all could be avoided, "This rush-hour jam on our decks, "If folks staggered their hours of travel "And avoided peak bottle necks."

DODGE THE PEAKS SHOP 10 to 3

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