

PORTLAND, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 14, 1906

# COTTON, KING of OUR EXPORTS

It Brought \$453,000,000 to us From Abroad this Year



A Good "Fiel' Hand" Who Can Pick 200 Lbs. of Cotton in a Day

THROUGHOUT the fair and smiling Southland, where over 30,000,000 acres his fleecy banners have been waving, snow-white, in the balmy air, the King, enthroned, is now receiving the homage of his millions of subjects.

"Cotton is King," declared James Henry Hammond on the floor of the United States Senate as far back as 1858. But even that optimistic statesman did not foresee the time when, of the world's total production for its annual output of \$2,000,000,000 worth of cotton goods, the United States was to supply three-fourths.

For the year ending June 30, 1905, America's cotton exports were valued at \$410,657,752, as against \$410,205,653 for all other agricultural exports. In addition, the prosperous planters sold more than \$200,000,000 worth to feed the 25,000,000 spindles of this country.

And still the King is increasing in stature. During the fiscal year just ended raw cotton and cotton goods to the value of \$453,000,000 were exported, while American looms were busy with an increased quota. All the gold mined in the world last year would have paid Southern farmers for only half their crop.

The story of cotton is the romance of industry. Cold figures cannot chill its recital. It is picturesque in every chapter, full of warmth, color and appealing tradition.

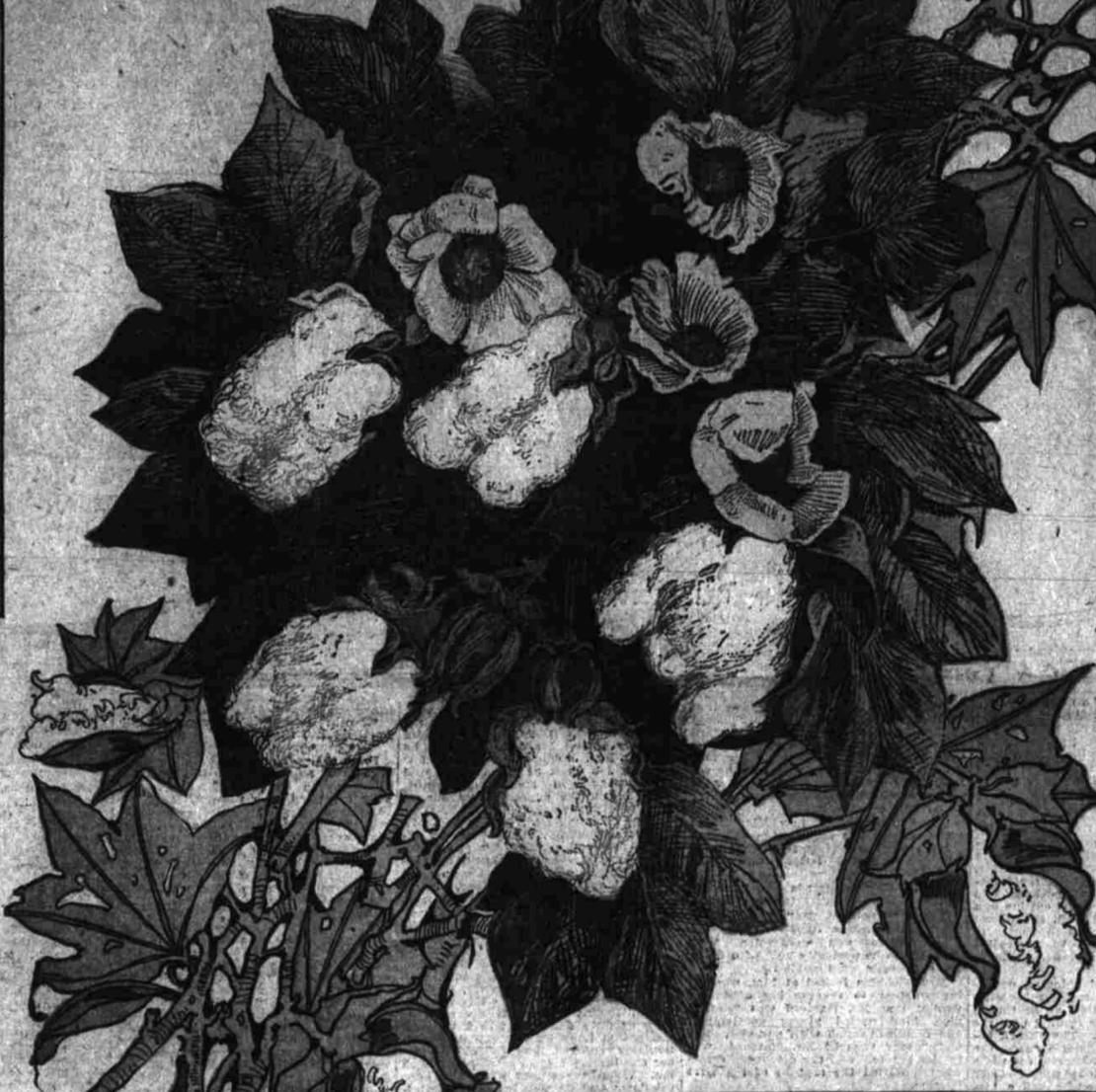
"From the instant it puts forth its tiny shoot," said the late Henry W. Grady, "the cotton plant is gold. Its fibre is current in every bank, and when, loosing its fleeces to the sun, it floats a snowy banner that glorifies the fields of the humble farmer, that man is marshaled under a flag that will compel the allegiance of the world and bring a subsidy from every nation on earth."

Although I gaze upon no waste of snow, To the remotest point of sight, The endless field is white.—Zimrod.

WHEN, in 1858, Senator Hammond so enthusiastically accorded sovereign rank to cotton, the total American crop amounted to only 4,018,915 bales. Of this production, 927,650 bales were used for home consumption and 3,091,403 bales were exported.

His wildest prediction, doubtless, would not have accorded the crop of 1904 such enormous figures as 13,565,985 bales, and yet these figures were reached. Of that immense crop, 4,445,650 bales were used at home and 8,767,180 bales were exported.

These, and most of the other figures quoted, are from an entertaining book, "Cotton," recently published by Doubleday, Page & Co. Its authors are Professor Charles W. Burkett, of



A Machine that has Picked 7484 Lbs. of Cotton in a Day



Any Plow will Advance A Farmer From \$35 to \$40 on Such a Bale of Cotton



A Labor Saving Plow that Cultivates Two Rows of Cotton at Once

ish from the earth, we could grow enough of the other crops, supplemented by rice, oats, barley, rye, peas, beans, and so forth, to feed both man and beast with comfort.

"But there is no substitute for cotton that can be cultivated on a large scale; no substitute, animal or vegetable, product with which civilization's present demand for clothing could be supplied.

"Nor is there any plant with a history more marvelous or more romantic, more suggestive of the legend and mythology of its Oriental home where it first began to serve mankind."

That most of the human race depend upon the snowy fleece of the cotton plant for clothing is illustrated by the fact that three times as much cotton as wool is produced. Moreover, the flocks of the shepherd are not meeting demands as fully as the acres of the Southern planter.

In ten years—from 1895 to 1905—the world's production of wool had fallen from 2,750,000 bales to 1,750,000. On the other hand, the cotton crop of the earth had increased from 10,304,000 bales in 1895 to 17,783,000 bales in 1905.

"Cotton is king in the export trade of the United States for the fiscal year just ended," was the statement recently issued by the Department of Commerce and Labor. For the first time the value of raw cotton sent abroad crossed the \$400,000,000 line, and exceeded by far the value of any other article of merchandise sent out of the country.

Exports of breadstuffs of all kinds, for instance, totaled only \$188,000,000; the aggregate of provision shipments was \$311,000,000, and that of iron and steel manufactures \$181,000,000.

The exportation of manufactured cotton was also larger than for any previous year, reaching a value of \$53,000,000. In 1905 the exports were \$50,000,000, and in 1904 only \$22,500,000.

Rapid growth in the export trade has been witnessed during the last five years. It was not until 1901 that the \$300,000,000 line was crossed, with shipments of 6,715,793 bales. How insignificant appear the shipments of 1883, amounting to 867,000 bales!

In 1793, when Whitney invented the cotton gin, Liverpool took 138,328 pounds—not bales—of American cotton, and this was considered a heavy export trade.

"Thirty years ago," say Messrs. Burkett and Poe, "the South grew only 4,000,000 bales of cotton; twenty years ago, 6,000,000 bales; ten years ago, 8,000,000 bales; the last three crops have averaged more than 11,000,000 bales.

"For the last five crops, for which figures may be given, the South has received nearly \$1,000,000,000 more than for the preceding five crops—twice as much money as is invested in all our American cotton mills.

"For the crop of 1904 and 1905 she received

\$341,000,000 more than for the crop of 1899, which sum, if equally divided, would give a surplus of \$240 to each of the 1,418,000 farms growing cotton; of \$21 each to every one of the 16,000,000 inhabitants of the cotton States."

Such prosperity is bound to be reflected in the increased material welfare of a people. From 1900 to 1905, it is stated, savings and bank deposits in the Southern States grew more than 100 per cent, as against an increase of 50 per cent. for the remainder of the country.

Farm lands have increased in value, and the planter has surrounded himself with greater comforts and has secured more modern machinery. Even the negroes of the towns are drifting back to the cotton fields to find steady and remunerative employment.

In Simpson county, North Carolina—a specimen case cited—land that sold for \$67.50 an acre four years ago would bring \$100 today. Another farm sold recently for \$3000 cost then \$3000. Within a year land values in that county increased one-third—a total enhancement of \$1,000,000 for this single county.

Two South Carolina cotton farms are also mentioned. In three years one of these had risen in selling price from \$3000 to \$8000, while the other, valued then at \$7000, recently brought the owner \$20,000.

Railroads are earning more than ever before, and new trackage is being laid; new enterprises, in addition to more cotton mills, are springing up in every direction, and the white bloom of the boll is, indeed, the banner of a wonderful prosperity.

### PROSPERITY IS WIDESPREAD

But this prosperity is not confined to the South; the great milling sections of New England are feeling the thrill of the advent.

"Quarterly dividends for the July quarter of the Fall River, Mass., cotton mills," says a recent dispatch from that busy centre, "show the largest amount distributed to stockholders in any quarter since July of 1900. The mills have distributed \$367,275 in dividends on a capital of \$23,125,000, and, in addition, one of them paid a stock dividend of 50 per cent.

If one wishes, in a rough way, to outline the cotton belt of the United States, he should draw a line upon the map westward from Norfolk, Va., to Memphis, Tenn.; then southwest to Little Rock, Ark., and Dallas, Texas.

Only to a limited extent is the white-bloomed plant grown north of this general line. The producing States are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Texas, Indian Territory and parts of Tennessee and Virginia.

Virginia began the cultivation of cotton. During the Revolution it could be found growing on Delaware farms. Even Pennsylvania grew enough to supply its own needs.

When the Civil War erected its bloody barrier between North and South, cotton growing was undertaken to some extent in Nevada and Illinois.

"For fifty years, however," state Messrs. Burkett and Poe, "the meridian point of production has been within a radius of about seventy-five miles from Jackson, Miss. In the last twenty years this has been carried northwest by the increase of the Texas crop and the opening up of new lands in Oklahoma and Indian Territory.

"The cotton section west of the Mississippi grew 34 per cent of the crop in 1879, 38 per cent

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