

The Golden Fleece Is Tarnished

IF your crystal ball were in excellent working order we would hesitate to guess at the cause of the cotton market's troubles, or its effect. There are, as they say, divers factors involved, not the least of which is the fact that the Cotton Exchanges are operated in somewhat the same fashion as the Monte Carlo Casino.

With an unusually short crop and an unprecedented demand for all grades of cotton you would think the spiral would have been for several months past 40 cents before the bottom fell out. The cotton manufacturers were apparently under this delusion when they had their friends in Congress the ceilings on finished goods to the cost of raw cotton. As long as the price was rising this was a handy little device. For ceilings were required every thirty days, moving up a notch each time. Now, in response to this open invitation to withhold, most mills have the heaviest inventories in years and are faced with a glut of cotton. The result is a price ceiling on cloth actually lowered in accordance with the OPA cost-plus formula.

This is the consideration, apparently, that caused one of the heaviest runs of telegrams to Congress last week. The Charlotte history after the cotton exchanges closed on Saturday; some of those conversations, we suspect, came close to melting the wires.

This is but one of the touches of irony in the situation. Another is the anguished cry of Senator Thomas of Oklahoma, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. The Senator, who stands four-square against any Government regulation to

keep cotton prices from climbing, is issuing thunderous demands for Federal intervention to prevent the market from sliding further. The Senator has even been driven to turn on his old friends, the cotton speculators; he now wants an investigation into what he calls "the bear conspiracy" that broke the market.

And, of course, there are the Agriculture Commissioners of the various cotton states who are now insisting farmers and a few weeks ago to hold their cotton until the market passed 50 cents. They share a place with the manufacturers and Senator Thomas out on the far end of the limb.

It would be to laugh if it were not for the sad fact that the cotton farmer, that tired and patient man, is likely to be the ultimate sucker, as usual. In Louisiana they're saying the farmers stand to lose over \$200,000,000 if the market stays in its present position for the beginning of the selling season. With their high production costs, most cotton farmers find their break-even point somewhere above 20 cents these days, and the prospect of any further decline is disturbing indeed.

Some months ago we quoted here a prediction of the "Cotton Outlook" from the trade paper, Business Week. The magazine surveyed the prospects of the then bull market and spoke darkly of "price carnage and cries of anguish from the cotton belt." The prediction was of an old and plaintive refrain we hadn't heard in years, the one that goes:

... ten cent cotton and forty cent meat, How in the hell can a poor man eat? When you multiply those price quotations by two it's still a good question.

On Teachers And Unions

IN DISCUSSING the differences of opinion between the North Carolina Education Association and the South Piedmont District Classroom Teachers. The Greensboro Daily News ranges all the way from suggesting a teachers union for North Carolina, saying in part: "If the notion that the teacher has rights which may be exercised and cashed in on has spread as far as Tokyo."

And there is quite a bit of additional evidence that the idea of organizing a union is gaining ground among the teachers. Mrs. Pearl Miller Tomlinson, President of the Hickory Classroom Teachers, apparently suggests a teachers union that she voted in favor of the pay scale proposed at the Piedmont District session because "we are trying to avoid joining a union in this state."

Well, unions always grow out of desperation, and in the case of teachers, who are traditional individuals, it is the most favored. It would certainly be a last resort. Some of them are now seriously considering the idea is a measure of the low estate into which the teaching profession has fallen. There is a rebellion against low salaries that has heretofore resulted in the wholesale departure of teachers from the schools. If individual action ever gives way to collective action, the teachers of North Carolina will have no one to blame but themselves, for the patience of the teachers has been stretched by too many empty promises.

The C. Of C. Bites A Businessman

ALTHOUGH it is not quite in the class popular with man biting dog, the spectacle of the Transportation Department of the Chamber of Commerce taking a healthy and public swing at three of Charlotte's more prosperous monopolies last week certainly deserves comment and applause. Specifically, the Transportation Department has rendered Charlotte by Eastern Air Lines, the Seaboard and Southern Railways, and Duke Power Company. After making all due allowance for the inevitable exaggeration of transportation news during the war and the cost and difficulty of replacing equipment, the Department apparently still felt that the concerned aren't extending themselves in their effort to improve air, bus and rail transport.

The Department's chairman, John L. Wilson, read the bill of indictment. His bill expressed the most severe criticism, and it led to the Department's getting squarely on the bandwagon with the City's Aviation Committee in the effort to bring about a new airline in Charlotte. The Seaboard caught a haymaker in regard to its inadequate passenger service on the Wilmington run, while the Southern escaped with a glancing blow on the subject of its delay in issuing a new low-fare ticket office. (We hope that someday the Department will also have a few words to say on the odd scheduling that 50 to 60 train passenger trains into Charlotte in bunches, leaving certain periods trainless.)

People's Platform

Further Footnotes On '07

REITERING again to the Wreck of Old '07, I have had with much interest the accounts in the paper of late. And I was glad to have the picture of the wreck of my scrapbook.

At the time Old '07 went through the trestle at Danville I was employed by the old Southern Express Company as a messenger on the south end of an old mail train to New Orleans, relieving the messenger from Washington at Atlanta. Old '07's express load consisted mostly of costly fur, jewelry and other valuables. On account of the importance of this run messengers were instructed not to pick up any express matter after leaving Atlanta. It was a must that we check and get a record of express we had leaving Atlanta.

I could have relieved Messenger Pinkney in Atlanta at 11:07 P. M. the day of the wreck at Danville if it had not occurred. On account of the wreck we made up a relay in Atlanta and I rode '07 into New Orleans with nothing to do whatever. I remember the trip as if it were yesterday. Yes, although I am not quite sure, I think the wreck was in 1902. (Note: It was—Eds., The News.)

The statement about the canary birds is true. Express Messenger Pinkney also came through alive but badly injured. He only made a few more trips before he was dead.

NOTE: The Richmond Times-Journal, which is holding up one end of this '07 revival, received the following letter after reprinting a News editorial on the subject—Eds., The News.)

Season's Gifts

At this season of the year, many friends throughout the country send to Tuskegee Institute used clothing, shoes and other gifts for distribution among maladjusted but deserving families.

During the past year, when scarcity and high prices of such commodities lifted them out of the reach of sub-marginal families, these gifts, through judicious distributions have relieved suffering and unnecessary privation, especially among children.

We are, therefore, renewing our appeal this year because as winter approaches rural school teachers and other field workers bring reports that despite areas of rural poverty there are many children who are indolent or victims of the present unsettled economic conditions.

Whether parents in such homes are indolent or victims of the present unsettled economic conditions, innocent children can, through the aid of Christmas necessities, escape to some degree the health hazards in insufficiently heated homes and rural school buildings and exposure to muddy, well-swept roads.

Contributions of all kinds should be addressed to: Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and only one side here. Papers, labels and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise nothing goes. Each letter must be signed, addressed in exception to the above, and the writer will withhold the writer's name—Editors, The News.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round: U. N. Assembly Like Continental Congress

THE American people are now beginning to realize that the road to peace after war is never easy. Beating our way into peace sometimes is more difficult than forging the road to war.

One encouraging milestone on the road to peace being reached in the United States is the fact that the Allied world, who for months have had sit and take it from the Big Four, now debate on an almost equal basis.

Many may have forgotten it, but this issue of free debate caused a bitter battle at the San Francisco conference of the United States Congress which was proposed that the General Assembly of the United Nations be permitted to make decisions of the kind of the big powers sitting on the Security Council.

Australian Foreign Minister Dvatz, spokesman for the little powers, opposed the idea. He said that the General Assembly under the recognized principles of democracy have the power to override the Security Council. He was rebuffed, not only by his own "mother diplomat" from London, but by the isolationist-grounded Senators of the U. S.

In the end, the General Assembly was given the power to debate, discuss, criticize, and recommend—but not to carry out resolutions. Note—actually in the Western World, where public opinion has become so important, this power of debate can be all-powerful. Mr. Molotov, of course, realized this and fought so vehemently to restrict the assembly's power of debate at San Francisco.

Behind the iron curtain, public opinion still is tightly controlled. When it is decontrolled, then we need no longer worry about the USA and the USSR. Meanwhile, the session beginning in New York today are like the first sessions of the United States Congress which were therefrom. They were not achieve much at the moment, but they should pave the way to great and hopeful things.

What U. N. Will Debate

HERE are the most important problems to be thrashed out before the U. N. General Assembly: The veto power which will be estimated eventually. Russia will vigorously oppose. The United States and

Britain will wish. They will like the power of the veto despite their criticism of Russia for using it; so they will propose that the veto be eliminated eventually, but that the question be referred to the Security Council.

Palatine—Mandates and trusteeships will cause caustic debate. Britain still clings to Palatine though the League of Nations has long since abandoned it. The British members will now try to take it away. The USA will be in for trouble when Russia raises status of Pacific islands now held by us.

Rome for United Nations—Delegates are fed up with New York's lack of hospitality, and Soviet will take advantage of this by urging transfer to Europe. Britain will argue that even in wartime London or Paris they get better treatment than in blase, subway-rushing, berserk New York.

Troops on foreign soil—Russians will urge British troops on foreign soil—Russians will urge British troops on foreign soil—Russians will urge British troops on foreign soil.

Coughlin Sought Nazi Tie FOR years, speculation has continued as to whether Father Coughlin is an employee of the German Government. The answer is that the radio priest did seek co-operation from Hitler, but the Nazis figured he was not worth the trouble. The supposed Rogge report on Nazi activities in the USA carries the following interesting references to Coughlin:

Harold Ickes Nuernberg Executions

THEY were executed on Oct. 15 some of the most relentless, colossal, and most cruel criminals that have ever walked the earth.

Bill Huddings was in charge of the wrecking crew and a few years later he was sitting in the doorway of an old mail train to New Orleans, relieving the messenger from Washington at Atlanta.

Whether parents in such homes are indolent or victims of the present unsettled economic conditions, innocent children can, through the aid of Christmas necessities, escape to some degree the health hazards in insufficiently heated homes and rural school buildings and exposure to muddy, well-swept roads.

Contributions of all kinds should be addressed to: Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and only one side here. Papers, labels and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise nothing goes. Each letter must be signed, addressed in exception to the above, and the writer will withhold the writer's name—Editors, The News.

him about German problems. Reardon talked against President Roosevelt and against the Jews, and conveyed Coughlin's suggestion that Hitler personally make some sort of declaration that the Nazis were supporters of the Christian religion.

"After spending a few days with Salter, Reardon saw Ribbentrop and was introduced to me by the German Ambassador, Salter. As for the statement that the Nazis were supporters of Christianity, Ribbentrop replied evasively that they would have to be asked for the purpose of the Ribbentrop-Salter interview. I have never seen the Ribbentrop-Salter interview. It was introduced to me by the German Ambassador, Salter, who handed me the enclosed copy of a letter directed to him by the well-known Father Coughlin. He showed me the original and subsequently the copy of the letter to Salter. The letter is to support Coughlin in his fight against Roosevelt. It is a copy of the letter to Salter, dated August 11, 1939, signed by one Workman, head of the German American Bund in New York. The German Workman's memorandum reads as follows: