

The Ferguson Forum

WE ARE AGIN HIGH INTEREST



WE ARE AGIN HIGH TAXES

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Cotton Planting for 1927 Must Be Held to Acreage Not to Exceed 30,000,000

Bayliss E. Harriss, former mayor of Galveston, has addressed a communication to the Dallas Morning News in which he discusses the cotton situation in a practical manner and insists that the acreage for 1927 must be held down to 30,000,000. His letter is as follows:

I suppose you are flooded with communications from Tom, Dick and Harry concerning ways and means in which to save the present distressful condition of the farmers of the south on account of the decline and low price of cotton. So far, I have not seen anything of a real, constructive nature to bring about any relief. A few politicians or those seeking a little publicity have made a little noise. In fact, in this connection, I might mention that during the political "hurrah" we had during the summer and these great patriotic statesmen who were seeking public office at the expense of the pocketbook of the taxpayers, few, if any of them, offered a constructive thought or suggestion that might be of benefit to the farmer.

After all is said and done, the producer furnishes the prosperity for the entire nation. The laborer, banker and practically every other class of citizenship would starve to death were it not for the prosperity that comes from the soil.

As regards the present situation, most of us, perhaps, do not fully realize how grave the consequences might be. The banker, the farm loan companies and the merchants are primarily interested because it means the postponement of the payment of bills, mortgages and a shrinkage in land value with the natural result that everybody will be materially affected.

We apparently have a large crop of cotton. These frequent government reports were instigated at the behest of the southern people and southern congressmen, although, as a rule, it is guesswork as to what the cotton crop will be before the middle of October. In a manner it seems silly and ridiculous to spend ten months' time, labor and effort to plant, cultivate and raise a cotton crop and then not harvest it. Hence, the advice to abandon part of the crop, from an economic standpoint, might be entirely wrong. On the other hand, if the crop is as large as it is thought to be, with last year's carry-over, we have too much supply, which means that this crop must be marketed very slowly and very carefully, and at least one-third of it carried over until next season. It further means that we must positively and uniformly have at least a reduction of fully one-third in acreage. The farmer in Georgia or North Carolina can not say, "I will not reduce my acreage because the farmer in Texas or Oklahoma is going to reduce his," and incidentally, it might be said that our greatest increase in acreage has come from Oklahoma, northwest Texas and the Plains country. We have got no business with over 30,000,000 acres of cotton for next season.

This is no time for cheap talk, but what we need is real, earnest leadership of a constructive and unselfish nature. The bankers, merchants and farm loan companies are first interested, and I am sure that the Dallas News, the south's greatest newspaper, will take a leading and helping part in the situation. Respectfully,
BAYLIS E. HARRISS,
Galveston, Texas.

Bickett Resigns Highway Job Voicing His Hope That Texas May Get Best Roads

The resignation of John H. Bickett, of San Antonio, member of the State Highway Commission, has been received by Governor Miriam A. Ferguson at Austin, having been forwarded from San Antonio October 3.

Commissioner Bickett is the last of the original Ferguson highway commission, Joe Burckett and Frank Lanham, other members, having resigned earlier. His letter of resignation follows:

"As a result of a stroke of paralysis I have been sick for about four months. I am now advised that my recovery may not be as rapid as has been hoped for. There is at present no definite assurance that I can return to my duties as Highway Commissioner within a short time. Although I have been confirmed by the senate for a term expiring in February, 1931, I feel that I should resign at this time.

"Therefore, I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the Highway Commission, to be accepted by you if you see fit, and to take effect upon the appointment and qualification of my successor.

"I have no apology or excuse to make for any official act of mine. I have at all times done my duty honestly, faithfully and fearlessly. My record is an open book.

"I am proud of the part which, small though it may be, I have been able to have in the upbuilding of a system of good highways through our great state. And I hope to see such a program carried out as will give Texas the best system of roads in the country.

"I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the courtesies shown me by my associates on the Highway Commission, both under the latter part of Governor Neff's administration and under the present administration. I wish to thank the employes of the department for their loyal co-operation, and also the various county judges and commissioners for their valuable assistance."

Talk Is Cheaper in Texas When It Goes Over Bell 'Phones

Houston, Texas, Oct. 6.—Officials of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company have announced a reduction in rates for long distance telephone service. The reduced rates became effective October 1 and talk is now cheaper by twenty to thirty per cent on telephone calls 150 miles in the district or within state boundaries 100 miles distant. This reduction the officials of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company say, will save the Texas users of telephones as much as \$3,000,000 annually.

Beer Checks Carry German Propaganda For Her Colonies

Berlin, Oct. 6.—Beer and propaganda have been joined in a unique manner by a Berlin brewer who furnishes his customers with paste board beer mats containing slogans in favor of the restoration of Germany's colonial possessions. As the imbiber waits for the keelner to fill a stein he can spend his time reading the printed mats. "Germans don't forget our colonies," reads one inscription. "Without colonies there is no certainty of obtaining raw materials," is another. "British colonial possessions are one hundred times as large as the mother country. And Germany?" proclaims a third in blue type.

"Oil Men Win; Children Pay"

(FROM DALLAS MORNING NEWS STAFF DISPATCH)

Austin, Texas, Oct. 4.—The oil interests won at the expense of the 1,300,000 school children of Texas by the action of the Senate in postponing the gasoline tax and motor license fee bills until the Fortieth Legislature, Representatives F. A. Dale of Bonham and John F. Wallace of Teague, authors of the measure, said Monday afternoon in a statement deploring the Senate's attitude.

Wallace and Dale were informed by Senator Wirtz of the Senate's action Monday afternoon, with a statement that a hearing scheduled for the afternoon on the bills would not be held. The two House members then made the following statement:

"This is the first time in our legislative experience a bill has been killed by resolution. Authors of the gasoline tax bill and motor registration bills have not been accorded the common courtesy by the State Affairs Committee of the Senate of being heard on the merits of these important bills.

"In the regular session of the Thirty-ninth Legislature opponents of the gasoline bills said they did not have time to consider them properly, and they favored taking them under consideration at the first called session. Now they want to consider them in the next regular session.

"We are reminded of the attitude of the anti-prohibitionists when prohibition was under discussion. They always wanted whatever you were not voting on. When precinct elections were to be voted on they wanted county-wide elections and when county-wide elections were up they wanted state-wide, never wanting what was under consideration. It is the same with the opponents of the gas bill.

"Last Friday afternoon, on last call in the Senate, twenty-nine Senators were present, as shown on page 830 of the Senate Journal. A few minutes later the State Affairs Committee was to meet to consider the gasoline tax bill and motor registration bill, but could not meet because they could not get a quorum.

"There were some reasons for a quorum not being present, but they were unknown to the proponents of the gas and motor registration bills. It seems to us that the interest of the 1,300,000 school children of Texas have been sidetracked. This is certainly one time the oil interests have won over the school children. We do not know which Senators voted for postponement but we suppose the Senate Journal will show, which will be interesting reading to friends of the school children of Texas.

"Friends of the public schools will press legislation in the next session of the Legislature to provide adequate funds for the public schools.

"It is a foregone conclusion that friends of public schools of Texas are up against the oil interests and had just as well understand they will have to stand together and make a determined fight to protect their interests.

"In the regular session of the Thirty-ninth Legislature the House of Representatives passed a \$4,000,000 appropriation for taking care of the public schools of Texas. This failed to pass in the Senate. Now at the first called session of the Legislature, the House again passed legislation that would partially have provided the much needed funds, and again the Senate has postponed action to the regular session of the Fortieth Legislature, which means that the smaller schools will close before they can get relief. At election time the dear children come first; after election they come last."

Austin, Texas, Oct. 4.—The governor Monday gave out the following statement:

"I am indeed sorry that the Senate has postponed the consideration of the gasoline measure until the Fortieth Legislature. The House of Representatives, realizing the sad plight of the public schools, had voted this tax at the regular session and had by an overwhelming majority again voted the tax at this called session.

"The Senate by its action in postponing the consideration of the gasoline tax until the Fortieth Legislature has deprived the counties of the additional revenues which they would have received from the tax on automobiles and will materially affect the construction and maintenance of the state highways as a matter of permanent policy, but has made it impossible for the school apportionment for the children of Texas to be increased at this time.

"The condition of the Treasury will not permit of a general appropriation for the schools and the oil companies are now permitted to escape a just tax which the Fortieth Legislature will have to saddle on the backs of the people who own farms, personal property and city real estate if the school term is to be increased.

"My heart goes out to the children and I deeply regret the turn affairs have taken."

House's Answer to Senate Defeat of Gas Levy Is To Vote Schools \$4,500,000

Austin, Tex., Oct. 5.—The Senate having killed the House bill raising the gasoline tax to 3c, Tuesday the House passed the buck squarely to the Senate by raising the latter's appropriation for the school from \$2,750,000 to \$4,500,000 and the difference of \$1,750,000 between the two houses has gone to a free conference committee to see if it can be adjusted.

Tuesday afternoon the House amended the Senate bill, raising the amount and finally passed the measure. When it was returned to the Senate thus enlarged, that body refused to concur in the amendment and asked for a conference committee, which was granted.

The conference committee's personnel is as follows: For the Senate—Davis of Dallas, Wood of Granger, Bledsoe of Lubbock, Real of Kerrville, only Republican member, and Fairchild of Lufkin. For the House—Representative Sanford of Timpson, Brown of Jacksonville, Hall of Houston, Wallace of Teague and Young of Wellington.

It was stated in the debate that a deficit will result if either amount is appropriated. The House is wedded to its gas tax raise and the Senate to its maximum school allowance, so it may be difficult to harmonize the difference between the two bodies. This may provoke a controversy that will prevent adjournment.

It was rumored Tuesday night that the Governor might veto every appropriation made by this session unless funds were provided by it, and thus prevent a deficiency. This determination, if it was made known, also might go to the deficiency appropriations now in course of final passage, as well as the emergency amounts which may be forthcoming.

Even if the Governor should approve the supplemental appropriation bill for the schools, regardless of the amount it carries, there are members of the House who think the measure is not worth the paper it is written on. This may cause the question of its validity to be raised, especially by the Comptroller, by drawing warrants against it or the Treasurer in paying them.

Representative John F. Wallace of Teague, a member of the legislative investigating committee, is one of the members who insists that the bill is valueless because the topic was never submitted by the Governor. Asked why the Legislature passed it under such circumstances, Wallace answered:

"The members were called here to provide aid for the public schools, and they would fear being mobbed on returning home if they did not do something, and this is their effort."

In support of his position that the bill is valueless because of not having been submitted, Mr. Wallace cites the case of Casino vs. State, 34 Southwestern, Page 769, construing Sec. 40, Art. 3, State Constitution, from which the following syllabus is made:

"The courts will take judicial knowledge of the proclamations, messages and public communications of the Governor to the Legislature.

"This section is mandatory and requires that the Legislature at a called session be confined to subjects presented to the Legislature by the Governor.

"The approval by the Governor of an act not within the scope of his call does not give such act vitality."

Spirit of Gratitude Will Survive in Spite of Weak Mortals Who Repudiate It

Editor Forum:

It has been said that humanity is very much alike the world over. This saying might have been true in past ages but I can hardly think it is true in this modern age. Now to illustrate: What can be farther apart than a grateful person and an ungrateful person. I have people among us who will appreciate favors until their dying day and others who only appreciate favors with their mouths. That is when the latter class is favored it kinda goes in at both ears and out at the mouth and no mental register is ever made of the favors, while the class of people first mentioned will say but few words but will make a mental record of what has been done for them.

It seems to me that the very first principles we might learn even almost as far back as mother's knees are principles of justice and the principles of gratitude. The readers may allow their mental record to revert to the days gone by when they were about their fathers' and mothers' knees and it will be fresh to all who are natural that the principles of gratitude and principles of justice were among their very first to make a mental record of.

So far as I know, I believe if we understand the lower animals and they understood us there would be but few of them ungrateful. About the only one of the lower animals that I ever came in contact with that I thought was ungrateful was an old pig-eating sow. I thought this old sow understood me when I went to sleep and I partly understood her but when I got in the hen to clean out her trough she caused me to have quick action of the legs but possibly this spirit of ungratefulness on the old sow's part was caused by a bad stomach. So we might say that humanity leads all God's creation with the ungrateful spirit. The dog is true to his master and will freely without a howl give his life for the hand that feeds him. The monkey tribe, that there has been so much said and taught about here lately is grateful and when given something that is appealing to their appetite will show their appreciation by their expressions. I sometimes wonder is it possible that man originated from the monkey or the monkey from the man. Regardless of whether either happened I believe the monkey would be ashamed of some of the traits of human character if he understood them.

Now speaking about ungrateful beings, I think I met the limit not long ago in the shape of a human being. This creature wore breeches and was criticizing Governor Ferguson for his pardoning record when he himself had been pardoned out of the penitentiary by Governor Ferguson. When I heard this man talking I wondered where were we going to from here. It is sad indeed to hear such expression from people who have been swept off their feet by a spirit of fanaticism but I guess about the best thing we can do for them is to look at their heads and forgive.

But after all the sad and dark spots of humanity, as the great wheel of time rolls on, we will ever have a people who will stand out as a guiding star, who will believe in simple justice, in whom in the darkest hour the spirit of gratitude can not be erased. The spirit of human gratitude and justice is as true as time itself and will not go down. Those grand and glorious principles may appear to be cheated for a short while but they will at last kick back with the power of a steam locomotive. So long as time goes on those principles will serve as a break to any wild fanatical spirit.

Without the principles of justice and gratitude what could life be worth, without such principles civilization could not exist and humanity could be no more.
T. I. FITZGERALD, DeLeon, Texas.

Guy Holcomb Given Lee Curtis' Job in Blue Sky Division

Austin, Texas, Oct. 6.—Lee Curtis has resigned as head of the blue sky division of the Secretary of State's office, effective October 1, to take a position with the W. T. Eldridge industries at Sugarland. Mr. Curtis is the son of Lee Curtis, well-known Bell County attorney. Guy Holcomb, campaign manager for Gov. Miriam A. Ferguson in the July and August primaries, has been appointed to succeed Curtis.

Motives That Guided Him in Issuing Pardons Told by Former Governor Hays

By GEORGE W. HAYS, Formerly Governor of Arkansas. The highest gift which the state can bestow on its chief executive is the pardon power. In the entire scheme of social existence and political life, there is nothing of which I am more convinced, nothing to which I so strongly adhere than the belief that the principle of granting relief to life's wayward and unfortunate is truly ordained.

State-Controlled Storage of Cotton Is Offered as Safeguard Against Slumps

Editor Forum: In the press dispatches from day to day we note alarming statements about the disastrous slump in cotton prices, the dire financial ruin resulting therefrom and the various remedies proposed, all guaranteed to cure right away or sooner.

New Heights Is Aim in Construction of Modern Skyscrapers

New York, Oct. 6.—With the skyscrapers of each year being lost in the shadows of the taller ones erected in the next, the designer who wishes to plan a distinctive building no longer can rely upon superior height alone.

ONLY \$25.00 Rich Man's Corn Harvester—Poor Man's Price

When you can buy a Corn Harvester for only \$25.00. Thousands of Farmers using them in every state in the Union. Why not you? One horse to pull it, one man to run it, with grand success. Harvester handles tall or short corn, kafir or cane. It cuts one row as fast as a horse can walk or trot. Self gathering. Has a bundle tying attachment. If you want to save time, men and money, write J. E. Ferguson, Harvester Co., Dept. A, Salina, Kans., for catalog showing pictures of harvester at work in the corn field. Harvester is shipped by express or freight. This is a thoroughly reliable company in business for over 30 years.

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Have You These Symptoms of Nerve Exhaustion? Do you get excited easily? Do you become fatigued after slight exertion? Are your hands and feet cold? Do you suffer from constipation or stomach trouble? Is your sleep disturbed by troubled dreams?

Hidalgo Leads in Ginning Report for 1926 Showing 84,144 Bales to Sept. 23 Washington, Oct. 6.—One new leader among Texas counties has stepped to the front in cotton production, figures on ginning to September 23, made public by the Department of Commerce, showed.

Britishers Resent Being Refuge for Army of Tourists London, Oct. 2.—British hotel keepers may be strong for the "come to Britain" movement, but there are many Englishmen who think there are already too many tourists in Great Britain and voices are being raised against the effort to attract more foreign visitors.

Home Seekers Attention Live Oak county is one of the undeveloped and undiscovered counties of Texas. There are 800,000 acres of virgin land in this county that will in a very few years come under the plow.

Hotel Directory HOUSTON "THE BENDER" HOUSTON'S Popular Hotel, Rates \$1.50 and up. SAN ANTONIO GUNTER HOTEL Internationally Known. AUSTIN The Driskill EUROPEAN PLAN Is the Hotel AT AUSTIN

