

**C**OTTON Communities Showing More Interest in One-Variety Plan The advantages of limiting production to a single variety in each community or district are becoming more and more widely recognized among cotton growers and others interested in cotton production. The 1-variety plan has already been adopted and applied in most of the cotton-producing districts of the southwestern irrigated valleys, and the experience in these communities may facilitate the extension and stabilization of the system of organized production in the eastern Cotton Belt.

The primary object of 1-variety organization is to establish and maintain a regular supply of pure seed, to be used as the basis of production by the entire community. (Fig. 25.) The first step to be taken, where an active local interest in the 1-variety plan has developed, is to form a growers' association to which all bona fide growers



FIGURE 25.—A breeding block of Acala cotton on United States Acclimatization Field Station, State College, New Mexico, where the purity and superior quality of the seed are maintained for organized community planting

within the community should be eligible. To give stability and continuity to the effort, each member should sign a 5-year agreement to plant only the variety of cotton designated by the board of directors.

### Community Boundaries

In California the 1-variety districts are designated by counties, and many of the cotton-growing areas of the Southwest are separated from each other by mountain ranges or stretches of unirrigated desert, which afford ample protection from the danger of crossing with other varieties or with other stocks of seed. Where separative geographical features do not exist, as in many parts of the eastern Cotton Belt, more care has to be taken in locating seed-producing areas that can be protected in other ways.

One-variety areas also may be located with reference to soil types, in the interest of safer and more regular production of seed.

A gin unit, or the area from which a single gin draws its custom, may afford a satisfactory basis of a community effort, particularly if the gin is isolated enough to be free from the competition of other gins.

Having all of the custom of one gin of the same variety brings obvious advantages in keeping the seed pure and in being able to regulate the gin machinery so that there is a minimum of damage to the fiber.

### Selecting a Variety

Community production of any good variety is better than a multiplicity of varieties. The better the variety selected, however, the easier it is to attain community production. Properly conducted variety tests are the best means of determining the relative value of a variety, but the community organization need not wait for local tests to be made. Recommendations of the State university or extension service can be followed safely, or the association can be formed and the members choose by vote the variety with which to start. In case another variety is later found to be better, a local seed supply can be developed and the entire community changed over. The initial variety, however, should be one of which an adequate supply of pure seed is obtainable.

### Final Stages of Community Organization

Most growers can readily appreciate the advantages of 1-variety production, but a community often contains a small proportion of growers to whom these advantages are not so easily discernible. A 100 per cent 1-variety community is therefore much more difficult of attainment than a nearly 100 per cent community, and some means of protection against reactionary growers may be needed.

The gins can be of material assistance in dealing with this problem by refusing to gin outlawed varieties. The communities can also be protected by county ordinances or State laws prohibiting the planting, harvesting, and ginning of other than one variety in districts that are attempting to organize themselves on this basis. Restrictive ginning and legal measures, however, should not be invoked to coerce mixed-variety communities into 1-variety production, but should apply only to communities already established on a 1-variety basis and practically unanimous in their choice of variety.

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**COTTON Data Record**      Data on the grade and staple of cotton  
**Variation in Staple**      ginned in the United States for three  
**Length, 1928-1931**      consecutive years are now available, and  
    similar data on ginnings up to Decem-  
 ber 1 of the fourth year are available. We are approaching the time, therefore, when it may be possible to get some perspective of the trend of staple length—some definite information as to whether the staple length of American cotton is deteriorating or improving. Data covering a period of but three or four years are, of course, inadequate as a basis for definite conclusions, information covering a longer period being required to establish trends with any degree of certainty. But the figures now available do permit of some interesting comparisons.

Figure 26 shows the proportions of the several staple lengths of American upland cotton ginned in each of the three cotton years, 1928, 1929, and 1930; and Figure 27 shows corresponding proportions of these