

# JOHN McGRATH & SONS.

INCORPORATED

WHOLESALE & RETAIL  
DEPARTMENT STORE

BROOKHAVEN, MISS. Nov. 14th, 1917

Mr. P. M. Harding,  
Vicksburg, Miss.

My dear Mr. Harding:-

In talking with a friend a day or so ago relative to next year's crop, we both felt the conviction that there is going to be a great desire on the part of the farmers to plant a big cotton crop next season. Possibly this is necessary as cotton is partially a food crop as well as a textile one, but an effort should certainly be made to have as much food crops planted as is possible.

Now the above condition exists in this section. We have a great many farmers looking for places and for help and some of them have no teams and no corn, while others may have teams but very little corn and it is a serious problem for the supply merchant to undertake to furnish food for both man and beast. The banks will not take any of the risk they want 2 or 3 for one and even then they are not anxious. In making this statement, I am judging by the past, as I do not know how patriotic banks may become during this crisis, but if they can be induced to help share the burden, we may increase the yield of food supplies in this country a great deal during 1918.

If you will be in Jackson on the 22nd, I may come up there just for the purpose of talking over this situation with you. I expected to see you last Tuesday as George Covington told me that you were passing through on your way to Washington, but I missed your train. Write me about this at your convenience  
YOURS TRULY

*J. W. McGrath*