



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Thurmond Chatham Explains the Plans For Textile Industry Under Government Supervision

I am particularly pleased with the idea of the "Chatham Blanketeer." It will not only give us all a better picture, of what our Company and our people are doing, but it will give us a chance to understand a little better some of our problems. I hope that everyone connected with this Company will take an interest in our newspaper and do everything possible to help the Editor and Assistant Editors make it more attractive and useful.

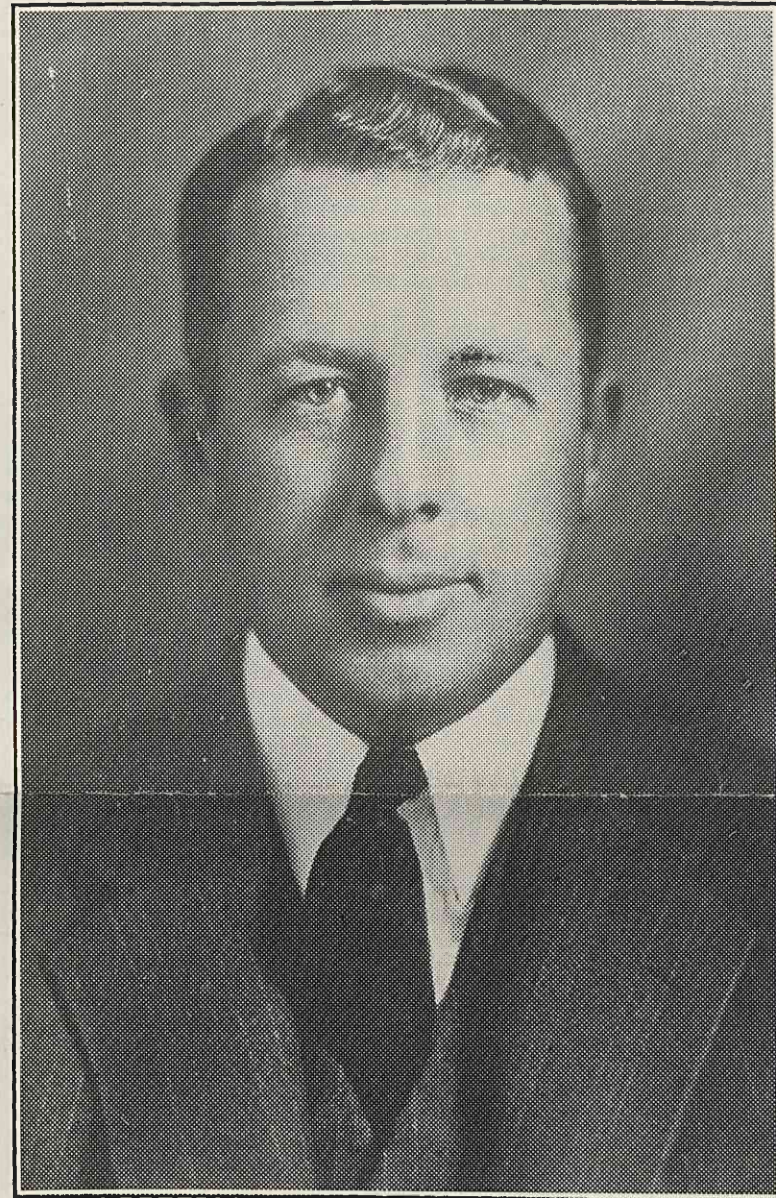
This first issue comes at a very important point in the career of all of us. We seem to be coming out of a very bad depression. We have had a lot of bad days and I venture to guess that there is hardly one of us who has not had worry or trouble and trials that at times have seemed almost beyond bearing. In any event, there is a new spirit abroad and if we have not begun to share in better times, we at least feel that better days are on the way. It is some comfort to know that we still have a going business and that our reputation for good blankets is still fairly well spread over the entire country. We have made a lot of blankets when other mills have, in some cases, been shut down entirely. I attribute this to the fact that we have put out good blankets and that they have been just a little better than those made elsewhere. Let's keep on improving our product and some day we may grow on as we have in the past. It's just the same as any other game—get a little better team and you win more than you lose.

We are about to go into a new and untried field—almost complete government supervision. I am happy to try it, because I feel that we have a President in Washington who is thinking and working for us and not for political or personal gain. But it is going to affect everyone of us and change a lot of things we have been doing.

Nothing yet is settled, but I believe everyone of us will be interested in the prospects. This is the rough outline of the plan for the textile industry:

1.—We will work individually no more than 40 hours per week. The exception to these hours will be office help, overseers, engineers, foremen and sub-foremen. Of course, from time to time other exceptions may be granted.

2.—A minimum wage will probably be put into effect at the same time as the restricted laws



THURMOND CHATHAM

of labor. Recommendations have been made that this wage be \$10.00 per week in the South and \$11.00 per week in the North. This difference is due to the variance in the cost of living. Exceptions to the minimum wage will be learners for a period of six weeks, cleaners and outside help. If the minimum wage is too low, conditions may not improve, because the object is to increase purchasing power. If the minimum be too high, skilled labor may suffer and be paid less in order to make up for the higher wages paid unskilled labor.

3.—Restriction of shifts. It is now recommended that two shifts of forty hours be the maximum allowed. I believe exceptions will be made in the case of seasonal goods, like blankets, where practically the entire year's production is sold at retail in the fall

months. We may be allowed three shifts for certain periods and then cut down to one shift in dull months of the year.

The above plans are only tentative and are subject to many changes. It is going to require much patience on the part of all of us while changes are being made. I really believe that the skilled, energetic worker will in time profit by the new rules and that slipshod average workers will be penalized. If we are forced to severely curtail production, we will do like everyone would want us to do—keep the best men and women.

If the price of our goods is raised too much by these regulations, our sales will suffer. If we can put the change into effect and keep our blankets in a fair price bracket, we should all benefit. I ask your full co-operation.

CLUB MEETS AT ELKIN THURSDAY

Annual Banquet of Lucy Hanes Chatham Club Held At Hotel Elkin; Interesting Program

The annual banquet of the L. H. C. Club was held Thursday evening, June 22nd, in the banquet hall of Hotel Elkin.

The hall was elaborately decorated with pink and green, the club colors. Roses and gladiolas were used in profusion throughout the decoration. Varied place cards with the Company trade mark on them, marked the places of the sixty guests. Programs were made into booklet form and fastened together with a tiny rose bud, the Club flower.

Invocation by Rev. L. B. Abernethy was followed with music by Miss Edith Neaves. Miss Juanita Billings gave the welcome address, to which Mr. Avery Neaves, Superintendent of the Company, responded. A piano solo, "Trees", by Miss Edith Neaves was greatly enjoyed.

Miss Ruth Carter, vice-president of the Club, gave a toast to the Winston Club, which was responded to by Miss Frances Hensley, of Winston.

After the four-course dinner was served the guests were shown a glimpse of one of the Thursday night Club meetings. The meeting came to order by the singing of the Club song, after which Misses Collie Myers and Freida Brown had charge of the devotionals. A report of the whole year's work was given by Miss Dorothy Penfield, secretary of the Club.

A humorous reading, "Our Hired Girl", by Miss Pearl Carter, was greatly enjoyed. This was followed by two musical numbers, "Moonlight and Roses" and "Bells of St. Mary's", by the Club quartet.

The next and perhaps the most interesting part of the program

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There will necessarily be rough places to smooth out.

If you see something wrong, be free to tell us about it. Every person in our organization should welcome suggestions. I am always happy to get them with one exception. I sometimes get letters without signatures; these should have no attention, because if a person is unwilling to sign his name, I am unwilling to consider the question involved.

I feel that we are in for better days. We need not expect miracles, but constant, honest effort is always triumphant.

Thurmond Chatham.
June 22nd, 1933.