



PLANT STARTED AS SMALL MILL

Chatham Manufacturing Company Made Cloth On One Loom On Beginning Here In 1878

By **ELIZABETH UNDERWOOD**

The Chatham Manufacturing company, Elkin's oldest and largest manufacturing firm, had its beginning 56 years ago as a small cloth mill with only one loom.

The mill was located about one mile from Elkin, on the Elkin Creek. The firm started as Gwyn and Mr. Alex Chatham, Sr. The goods were yarns, jeans and cashmeres, which would be exchanged for wool to the farmers in the surrounding country. The surplus would be taken to Salisbury in wagons and offered for sale. The mill continued to prosper until the looms and spinning frames had increased to twenty each.

In 1893 the company was organized to Chatham Mfg. Co. Mr. Chatham giving his part to his sons, who bought out Mr. Gwyn's part in the business. In the years 1893 and 1894 a one-story brick factory was erected on the present site of the old mill. A few years later another story was added as well as another building. The first blankets were manufactured in 1890, the first dozen being bound on a sewing machine by Capt. G. T. Roth's sister, Mrs. R. L. Hubbard.

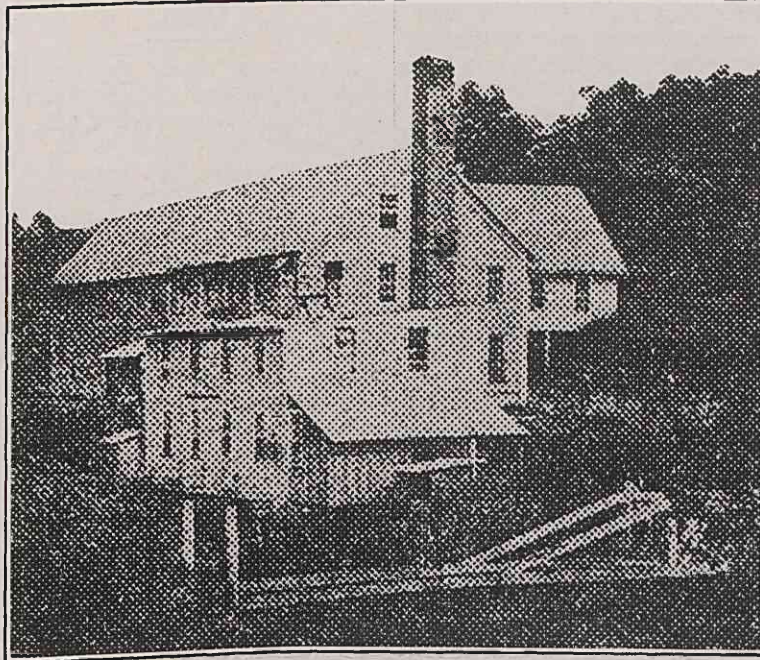
The company organized in 1907 and a new factory erected in Winston-Salem. About that time blankets were manufactured exclusively, the output being about 1,200 per week.

The officers of the Chatham Manufacturing Co., under the new organization, were as follows: H. G. Chatham, president and treasurer; R. J. Reynolds, first vice-president; G. T. Roth, second vice-president and superintendent and Mason Lillard, secretary. The directors were: H. G. Chatham, G. T. Roth, R. J. Reynolds, R. M. Chatham, R. G. Norfleet, J. L. Gilmer, H. E. Starbuck, W. M. Nissen, C. J. Ogburn, F. H. Fries, A. S. Hanes and W. A. Blair.

Beginning in a small way the Chatham Manufacturing Co. has gradually grown to be the largest woolen mill in the world making blankets.

These experts who declare that American life is moving in cycles are just adopting a more comforting way of saying we are running around in circles.

The First Chatham Manufacturing Co.



The above picture shows the first home of Chatham Manufacturing Company, located on the Elkin Creek, a mile above the town of Elkin.

DOBSON SHOULD MAKE GOOD MAN

If Elected To House Of Representatives Should Make Able Successor To Cape Haynes

In selecting Henry C. Dobson of Elkin as their candidate for the House of Representatives at Raleigh for the next two years the Democrats of Surry County have chosen an able successor to that very capable "Cape" Haynes, who has been the popular representative for the past few years.

Mr. Dobson is a native of Surry county, having been born near Rockford, a son of the late John H. Dobson and Mrs. Alice Cornelius Dobson. He grew to young manhood surrounded by the problems and difficulties of the farmer, and with the training and ability to overcome them.

Mr. Dobson's father, in addition to being a dirt farmer, was a lawyer and a legislator of exceptional ability, and Henry inherited both the agricultural and legislative genius of the elder Dobson.

About twelve years ago Henry became connected with the Chatham Manufacturing Company at the Elkin plant, and by honest,

Candidate



HENRY DOBSON

energetic and intelligent effort has earned for himself a responsible position with this company. His training for a legislator

(Continued On Last Page)

SPONSOR SCHOOL FOR EMPLOYEES

All Workers In Elkin Plant To Be Given Opportunity To Learn More About Job

In keeping with the company's policy of doing its utmost for the welfare and betterment of the employees comes the announcement that textile courses, which will help everyone with his present job and equip him for a better job, are to be offered without cost to all those interested. The Company will provide class rooms and instructors while all the individual need pay is for his own textbook. The books to be used are printed by the International Textbook Company, a branch of the International Correspondence School, and will cost less than fifty cents for a ten-week course of instruction. The courses to be offered are mapped out by the Trades and Industries Division of the North Carolina Department of Education. These courses are standard throughout the state and credit cards are given for each course completed and after completing a specified number a diploma is awarded. A diploma may be obtained in carding, spinning or weaving. Inasmuch as these courses are standardized, if one leaves Chatham's employ and goes to another plant where these courses are given, he may start where he left off and lose no credit.

The courses are to be open to both morning and evening shifts. The classes will be for two hours each and will meet twice a week for ten weeks in the fall and ten weeks in the spring. The present plan is for the fall term to open Oct. 9th. Since these classes are to be held for the benefit of the employees they will be held at a time suitable to the majority of those attending. A suggested time to hold the classes would be from 1:15 to 3:15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the evening shift and from 3:45 to 5:45 for the morning shift.

These hours are suggested to keep those attending from having to make an extra trip to the mill.

The first course to be offered will be Elementary Mill Mathematics. It will consist of the fundamentals of mathematics including addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, fractions, decimals, percentage, measures of length, weight, area, volume

(Continued On Last Page)