

CAROLINA TEXTILES

CAROLINA WILL LEAD

This and the next issue of the News Letter will be devoted to the textile development of North Carolina. The pace being set by the Tar Heel state in installing new textile machinery, and in building new textile factories, is the talk of the textile world. Every day come reports of new mills being organized, additional equipment being installed, capital stock being doubled and trebled. Every day someone wonders just how soon North Carolina will assume leadership in the textile industry in the United States. A few years ago no one thought she would ever supplant Massachusetts. Today the opinion prevails that it is only a matter of time until Massachusetts must assume second place—perhaps third or fourth, as the two states to the south of us are also showing a healthy development.

The North Pays Tribute

The belief that North Carolina is to assume leadership in the field of textiles is not confined to this state. Many northern mill men have expressed this opinion, and right recently at that. The President of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers says, "Our principal competition comes from the Piedmont district of North and South Carolina. There the climate is good and bracing. The operatives are pure-bred American stock, from the mountains. Like our original New Englanders, they have had hard work to make a living, and appreciate opportunity. Work is not only a necessity but also a pleasure. These people are of great native intelligence and quick to learn. Mills have sprung up on every hand. Every little town wants a mill and offers free land, exemption from taxation, and all sorts of encouragement to the man who knows how to make cloth and will start a mill.

"The record is clear enough, the cotton industry is gradually slipping away. In the past various factors have helped us. Massachusetts had far more skilled help and oversight. We had the finishing works where Southern goods must be shipped to be bleached, dyed, or printed. Now, there is excellent skilled help and supervision in the South."

Another mill man from New Hampshire says, "Success in southern mills, especially in North and South Carolina, has been due not to long hours of work, and low pay, nor to the employment of unintelligent workers, as the labor unions would have the country believe, but to efficient management. By efficient management I mean 100 percent efficiency."

"Frankly we are up against it," says an official of the Fall River Cotton Manufacturers Association. "Conferences are useless. We can operate only at a loss, and if we are to remain in business there is but one thing we can do, follow the general move to the South, to the Carolinas...To compete with southern mills and New England labor conditions is impossible; even the attempt is suicide."

Commenting on the above the Charlotte Observer says, "It is a gloomy picture painted by the Fall River textile industry. The conditions there only tend to strengthen the confident belief existent for many months that the South is to be the great textile center of the nation; that the New England industry will be transferred gradually to the Carolinas and other Southern States, where conditions for the manufacture of cotton are more favorable in several respects.

It is not believed, however, that it is practicable for New England manufacturers to move their plants to the South, or anywhere else. The cost of dismantling and transporting and setting up the plant would represent an expense that would be practically prohibitive, according to good authorities on the subject; besides, the tearing down and setting up of the machinery in many cases would render it almost useless, it is contended. What is going to happen, in the opinion of those in position to be best informed on the question, is that there will be no more mills erected in New England nor any more extensions and additions to present plants, and that all new plants and extensions to be established by New

England mill owners will be located in the South, while the old mills will be kept in New England and operated as conditions will permit until they are worn out or become obsolete, and then they will not be replaced.

There is nothing more certain now in the realm of future development than that the textile industry in New England is on the decline while it is growing by leaps and bounds in the South.

GROWTH IN CAROLINA

The textile industry is developing more rapidly in North Carolina than in any other state in the Union. At a recent meeting of the Cotton Manufacturers' Association a leading speaker asserted that four-fifths of the textile machinery now being manufactured in the United States is intended for installation in Southern plants. The bulk of this is being made for Carolina mills. This state is installing more textile machinery than all the rest of the South combined according to reports of textile journals. Commenting on the rapid installation of machinery in North Carolina the Greensboro News carries the following:

More new cotton spindles are in sight for North Carolina for installation this year, or as quickly as projected textile plants can be built, than were in sight for the entire South on January 1. Textile leaders and machinery men in Charlotte estimate that more than 800,000 new spindles will be installed by mills under construction or projected in this state, as compared with the estimate of 807,720 for the entire South in the annual statistical number of the Southern Textile Bulletin in January.

The estimate for North Carolina at that time was 583,760 spindles. The estimate for South Carolina was 57,000. Today approximately 150,000 is the estimate credited to South Carolina, and in addition to this equipment a large expansion in weaving mills and bleaching and finishing plants. Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia, and Texas are credited together with approximately 225,000 spindles, making an aggregate of close to 1,200,000 new spindles in sight for the entire South.

Recent visitors to this section, including textile men, editors, economists, and business men, have marveled at the industrial development of this section, not only in textiles but in other lines of industry. Two questions have almost invariably been asked by these visitors: "How do you develop men for responsible positions in mills fast enough to supply such positions in new mills established?" and "Can you secure desirable, efficient labor for a continuance of this program without resorting to the importation of immigrant labor from the east?"

Textile leaders and other business men have been much interested in the answers to these frequent questions. Comparatively few people know how extensive are the efforts being made for the training of alert, ambitious young textile workers for positions of responsibility. The state of North Carolina, through its board of vocational education, is conducting classes in a large number of mill communities, giving work especially adapted to the needs of the industry. Many of the mills are cooperating in this work. Several hundred young men are enrolled in these classes and numerous promotions to positions of large responsibility and greater remuneration have resulted directly from work done in these classes.

Another force which is developing the efficiency and calibre of mill workers who have already started up the ladder is the Southern Textile association, an organization of superintendents, overseers and other men from the mills to which no mill official is even allowed to belong. Some splendid work has been done in the institutes, experience meetings and conventions of this body and a number of its members have begun to "graduate" into the ranks of mill executives.

Those who are familiar with the progress of the textile industry are not uneasy regarding the supply of capable men for responsible positions. The intelligence, the industry and the spirit

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA An Industrial Empire

That the textile industry in the South, especially in the Carolinas, great as it is already, has entered well upon a period of unprecedented expansion is indicated in a local news article carried in The Sunday Observer, giving the estimate of Charlotte textile machinery men and leaders in the cotton manufacturing industry. It is almost astounding that the present estimate of new spindles to be installed in North Carolina alone by mills under construction or projected exceeds 800,000, whereas last January 1 The Southern Textile Bulletin, which is regarded as an authority second to none, estimated new spindleage then in sight for the entire South at 807,000, in round figures. It is no less remarkable that, whereas the Textile Bulletin's estimate of new spindleage in sight for South Carolina at the beginning of the new year was only 57,000, that state now has in sight approximately 150,000 additional spindles.

It is no cause for wonder that recent visitors to the piedmont section of the Carolinas, including textile men, editors, economists and business men, have marveled at the industrial development of this region. And the end is not yet. A few months from now present estimates and forecasts may look small. More and more the country at large is learning that this is the ideal section for textile manufacturing, while the home people are coming more and more into recognition and appreciation of the same fact.

Not only is it an ideal region for the textile industry, but also it is highly favored as a section for the manufacture of many products other than textiles, as has been amply demonstrated by experience.

If we can develop the spirit of co-operation between labor and capital, between employer and employee, that will unite the two factors in maintained common harmony and team work and appreciation of each other, there is no reason why the piedmont section of the Carolinas should not develop into the greatest industrial empire in America. Why not, with such favorable climatic conditions, pure American labor, electric power, and the exemplary efficiency of management of which Mr. Greene, of the Pacific Mills Company, told the New England people last week in his Lawrence, Massachusetts, address?—Charlotte Observer.

of the men in the ranks are sufficient assurance of this. It is pointed out that the men at the looms and the men working in the mills have the same aspirations, the same ideals, the same honesty of purpose and are of the same blood as the men who have already climbed to the top and are reaping the reward for their industry, their intelligently applied industry and their capacity for getting things done.

The matter of an adequate supply of labor for the continued expansion of the industry is giving no more concern than that of supplying men for higher positions. There is, it is pointed out, a large reserve of native American labor in the mountain counties of North Carolina at present earning a small percentage of what it could earn in cotton mills or other industrial communities. This labor can be secured as rapidly as there is a demand for it, and it is being constantly drawn upon to a limited extent as new mills are built.

Textile men and other observers have every confidence that there is no danger of a halting of the expansion of the

textile industry as a result of the shortage of labor, or that they will have to resort to the importation of immigrant labor. The people who turn from the farm to the mill seldom go back. Although the industry in the South is quite young, there has already developed an industrial consciousness and the natural normal increase in the population of textile communities, augmented by the additions from the farms and particularly from the rural districts of the mountain counties, will supply every labor demand that is likely to develop, even if the rate of expansion in the industry is still further accelerated.

HUMMING IN CAROLINA

In the matter of active spindles the cotton growing states lead the Union hands down. In March fifty-two percent of the entire spindle hours of the United States was contributed by mills in the South. The average spindle in the cotton states ran 314 hours in March last, while the average for all other states was only 210 hours per spindle. North Carolina spindles averaged 324 hours each, and they were the most active in America. Georgia was next with 323 hours per spindle, while the average in South Carolina was 317. These three neighboring states led in the United States.

Massachusetts has more than twice as many spindles as North Carolina but the average spindle in this state runs 69 percent more hours per month than in Massachusetts. The total of spindle-hours in Massachusetts is not very much larger than in this state.

The following table shows the activity of cotton mills in the leading textile states for March 1923. The figures represent the number of hours the average spindle ran during the month of March.

	Average hours per spindle
North Carolina	324
Georgia	323
South Carolina	317
Alabama	291
New York	277
Tennessee	270
Virginia	250
Rhode Island	235
Maine	233
Connecticut	229
New Jersey	204
Massachusetts	197
New Hampshire	192
Pennsylvania	173
Cotton states	314
All other states	210

Massachusetts has 32.1 percent of all the spindles in place in the Union, and North Carolina has 14.7 percent. But the spindles of this state did 1,764 million hours of work in March, which was 18.5 percent of the hours performed by all spindles in the Union, while the hours worked by spindles in Massachusetts represented only 24.8 percent of the total spindle-hours. The cotton mills of this state are the most active in America, perhaps in the world. Practically all of our mills are running. In many mills the spindles are humming night and day, paying fair dividends on the 250 million dollars of invested capital, affording a living to nearly a hundred thousand contented employees, and converting a million and a quarter bales of raw cotton into yarn for the world.

TEXTILE ACTIVITIES

We are recording below, grouped by counties alphabetically, such expansion and improvements in the textile mill industry in North Carolina as we have seen noted by the press since October 1922. Our main source has been the Manufacturers Record. While this is not a complete account of mill expansion, it does serve to indicate the rapid growth of the textile industry in North Carolina. This record will be continued in the next issue of the News Letter.

Alamance, Burlington. — Stevens Mfg. Co. will install additional looms.

R. F. Williams contemplates erecting and equipping a knitting mill; construction likely to begin soon.

Aurora Cotton Mill will complete electrification of mill; power will be purchased; will construct office and storage bldg.; revamp dye plant.

Elmira Cotton Mills erecting 2-story addition to plant in West Burlington;

saw tooth roof; install additional mch.; erect addition to dye plant; erect 25 dwellings for operatives.

Anson, Wadesboro. — Cotton mill planned for near future and \$500,000 subscribed by 200 citizens through Wadesboro Chamber of Commerce, project to be financed and managed by local interests. Project program includes construction of mill village of 100 to 125 houses, construction work to be completed by spring of 1924.

Wade Mfg. Co. increased capital to \$750,000; has site of 342 acres and will erect brick mill for mfr. of nap goods; to cost about \$200,000; will install 400 looms and 7,500 spindles; will open mch. bids about Apr. 1; install hydro-electric plant; 500 H. P. electric drive; will construct 100 to 125 operatives' homes, bungalow type.

Bladen. Bladenboro Cotton Mills, Inc., are erecting Mill No. 3, with capacity of 5,000 lbs. fine yarn daily; cost \$400,000; will install 15,000 spindles.

Buncombe. Asheville. — Asheville Knitting Mills incorporated, with capital stock of \$50,000.

N. C. Handwoven Mfg. Co., capital \$25,000, incorporated; will establish plant for weaving woollens and mfg. cloth into clothing; will install 30 looms, dyeing dept., etc.

Asheville Cotton Mills will expend \$5,000 in improvements to plant.

Oak Lane Knitting Mills of Germantown, Pa., contemplate construction of knitting mill.

Burke, Morganton. — Earle Textile Co. incorporated, capital \$500,000.

The Burke Mills, Inc., incorporated; capital \$50,000.

Cabarrus, Concord. — Gibson Mfg. Co. plan to erect large addition consisting of a finishing plant; will install 190 looms, equipped with individual motors; capital increased to \$2,000,000.

Kerr Bleaching and Finishing Works will construct warehouse and singeing room.

Norcott Mills Co. (knitting yarns) will build 3-story addition to plant and install 6,000 twister spindles and additional combing and mercerizing mch.; capital increased to \$400,000.

White Parks Mill Co. will double capacity of plant; will erect 2-story plant, \$15,000 cost; will install 2,000 spindles; electric power plant; 110 H. P.; cost of mch. \$50,000.

Brown Mfg. Co. let contract for \$25,000 reinforced concrete addition to dye-house; will install mch.

Hobarton Mfg. Co. incorporated, capital stock \$400,000; will install 100 looms for weaving colored goods novelties; also dyeing plant.

Concord Knitting Co. incorporated, capital \$100,000; will establish knitting mill for production ladies' silk hose, capacity to be 300 doz. prs. per day; 100 knitting machines will be installed and 125 operatives employed; mch. to be electrically driven.

Kannapolis. — Cabarrus Cotton Mills have increased capital from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000.

Cannon Mfg. Co. let contract for construction of filtering plant, and will also construct number of dwellings.

Cannon Mfg. Co. will increase capital stock from \$3,500,000 to \$10,500,000, reduce par value of stock from \$10 to \$1 per share, and declare stock dividend of 200 percent payable Dec. 4; each holder \$100-share of stock entitled to 30 shares at \$10 par value. The company operates 13 mills at various southern points and produces 35,000 dozen towels daily.

Caldwell, Granite Falls. — Southern Mfg. Co. will construct cotton and cord factory.

Granite Falls Mfg. Co. increased capital from \$400,000 to \$1,200,000.

Hudson. — Caldwell Cotton Mill Co. chartered; capital stock, \$500,000.

Lenoir. — Nelson Cotton Mills let contract to construct cotton mill together with warehouse, reservoir, and 16 cottages; total cost of bldgs. \$125,000.

Whitnel. — Nelson Cotton Mfg. Co. will construct yarn mill.

Catawba, Hickory. — Ivey Mill Co. increased capital from \$225,000 to \$1,000,000.

Brookford Mills Co. will install additional equipment.

Maiden. — Providence Mill acquired by John P. Yount of Newton.

Maiden Mill sold to J. Smith Campbell.

Newton. — Ridgeview Hosiery Mill Co. increased capital from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

(Continued next week.)