

KEEP YOUR EYE ON CONCORD AND CABARRUS

Mayor of Manchester Announces State Wide Textile War to Save Mills From Southern Competition

Manchester, N. H., Oct. 9.—"Manchester does not for one moment intend to lose the proud position she has occupied as a leader in cotton manufactures since the dawn of the republic. The waters of the Merrimac will continue to turn more spindles than any other river in the world but we realize that we have Southern competition in the Carolinas to face and to fight and that we must be up and at it before it is too late."

Such was the declaration of Mayor Moses Vedette last evening as he announced the plans for a state-wide textile war to save the Amoskeag which has suffered considerable from Southern competition during the past eighteen months. "The situation is grave," he continued. "This competition, serious and rifeled by nassy, has at last become a menace to our industries and our city. It must be overcome and then the superior skill which the workers in this section of the land have always shown will continue to outweigh high transportation costs, then Manchester, metropolis of New Hampshire, will maintain her steady growth and the smaller cities and larger towns reflect her prosperity to a greater extent, perhaps than any other New England city."

Manchester is absolutely dependent on a single industrial plant, that of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, the world's largest maker of cotton cloth, which sprawls along both banks of the Merrimac for more than a mile in the center of the city. "The Amoskeag employs approximately forty per cent. of the entire population of the city and it is fair to assume that more than half the inhabitants are therefore dependent on it for their daily sustenance and of the remainder, a large proportion are trades people who would find themselves out of employment if the Amoskeag ceased to turn out its product. There is danger that the Amoskeag will drain in spite of the strike of last year which would have ruined many an industrial

plant. The mills today look toward the future with perfect confidence were it not for the South. Its guiding spirit, Frederick C. Dumble, is thoroughly cognizant of Southern competition and the threat which the mills of North Carolina offer to New England's textile industry.

"The problem of Southern competition awaits solution," he said. "Today it must be overcome. The Amoskeag has been fighting to keep New England in the fore front and I think we are going to succeed. Whether or not we will expand at Manchester in the immediate future is another question, however, and one that we are not prepared to answer."

"We have thoroughly organized our forces. With the help of State and municipal authorities we are going to get back what the Carolinas have taken from us. It is doubtful if any plan which calls for financial aid from the State will ever get through the New Hampshire legislature. In any event, the Democrats under the leadership of Gov. Brown, will fight it to the limit and they will probably have enough Republicans with them to carry the day."

"New Hampshire's captains of industry have great faith in the working people of its manufacturing cities. Manchester banks tell wonderful stories of the thrift shown by the employees of the city's mills and factories. Owing the prolonged strike at the Amoskeag, business in the city naturally suffered, but not to the extent that might have been anticipated. Even the proprietors of the motion picture theatres were able to keep going, and in most American cities today "movie" patronage is the best barometer of industrial conditions," continued the mayor.

"These are men who are today handling with the Manchester and Amoskeag authorities offering their time and cash to support any legitimate method of countering the Southern entrants in the industry."

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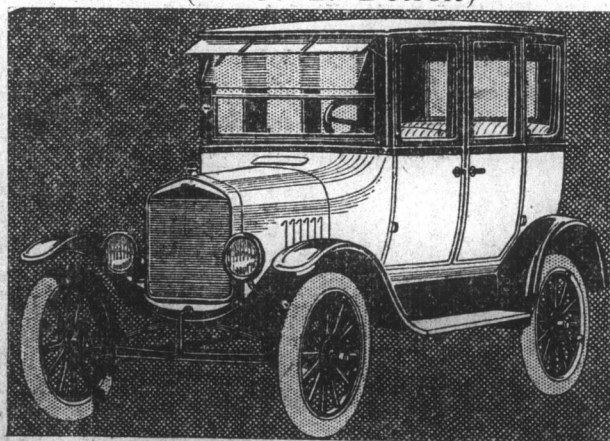
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