

The Chatham Blanketeer

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Never Too Busy To Aid Employe

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vered in his endeavor to build the Elkin and Alleghany Railroad, a project to which he gave largely of his time and resources in an attempt to benefit his neighbors in the northwest counties. Financing this construction work was impeded by the World War, and after the war the necessity for the railroad was lessened because of the advent of good roads and increased use of trucks and automobiles. It was only then that he abandoned the development, and not because he was discouraged.

I think Mr. Chatham exhibited the greatest patience when invariably during his very busy days he would take time to discuss with his employees their problems and with any one their troubles, with sympathy and understanding. Never during the years I worked for him did he instruct me to tell any one that he was too busy to see them. I am sure that Mr. Chatham's desire and willingness to discuss with his employees their business and family problems helped create the good-will that has always existed between employees and management of Chatham Manufacturing Company. We are all fortunate that his son has this same, as well as other, attributes of his father.

Two vivid events in the lives of most of us convince us that Mr. Chatham had courage. In the flood of 1916 when the Elkin mill was almost completely destroyed and mud was left in its wake, covering most of the machinery on the first floor and causing the loss of thousands of dollars, only the stoutest heart could have had the courage to try to recover anything from the damage and re-establish the mill operations. Again at the end of the World War the Government

on one day notice cancelled every order for blankets when every loom in the mill was making army blankets, and at a time when our warehouses were loaded with high-priced wool to fill those contracts. We had borrowed huge amounts of money to pay for the wool. The day after the Armistice the values of our wool declined from \$1.10 per pound to 50 cents. The purchasers of our notes demanded payment. Because of slowness of the government to adjust contracts, it was only because of Mr. Chatham's courage and the respect he had among his business associates that financial embarrassment for our company was prevented.

I am certain we all realize that the splendid mills we have at Elkin and Winston-Salem, and our position in the blanket industry are due to Mr. H. G. Chatham's foresight and his son's ability to carry his plans to fruition.

Hugh Chatham Was Statesman

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called "statesman". No man was freer from such faults. He knew how to express his regard for any one he cared for, but he did this in such a way as never to appear effusive.

Mr. Chatham's public career, on a state-wide scale, really began in 1900 during the campaign which resulted in the election of Charles B. Aycock as governor. During this campaign Mr. Chatham's ability as an organizer and as a leader of his organization was recognized by the new Governor and by the older statesmen whose keen eyes and ears were continually searching for just such ability. Mr. Chatham's intense interest in the election and administration of Governor Aycock was caused not only by his desire to see his state freed from the mis-rule of Dan Russell and his multi-colored regiment of office-holders, but his great sympathy for and with Aycock's promise to give every child within the boundaries of North Carolina an opportunity to get an education, and whose purpose was to assist in the uplift of all the people of North Carolina, both white and black, through the power of this universal medium.

As a result of the able efforts of such men as Mr. Chatham Russellism was overthrown, and the little red schoolhouse made its appearance within the reach of every child in the state. Mr. Chatham was pressed to accept some political appointment in recognition of his services, but he steadfastly refused, stating that he had rather be a private in the ranks than to be under obligations to any organization other

than the woolen mill, of which he was president. He was finally prevailed upon to accept the presidency of the state owned North Carolina Railroad, which was the least "political" of any.

Mr. Chatham's ability and wisdom in State affairs becoming recognized more and more each year, he was in 1907 made chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, and through his tireless energy and faithfulness to duty directed the perfection of a state-wide organization that could not be defeated. At about this time Mr. Chatham moved from Elkin to Winston-Salem, where his company had built another blanket factory, and his popularity as an adviser or "consulting engineer" on public and political subjects increased rapidly. He firmly but good-naturedly rejected many proposals to allow his name to be used as a candidate for any political office, but in 1913, while he was spending a few days at his summer home at Roaring Gap, he was drafted as nominee for the State Senate and served as Senator from Forsyth for two years, was made Chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of other important committees. During the World War Mr. Chatham's ability as an organizer was recognized by the Wilson administration and he was made a member of the Council of National Defense.

Hugh Chatham was esteemed for his honesty, his fine common sense and practical wisdom, and for his great strength of character, and it was because of these qualities that Senators and Governors, the high and the lowly, white and colored came to him or called upon him for advice or assistance, and no man, woman or child went away empty-handed. In his passing the Nation, the State and we who so frequently asked of him some favor or advice lost a great statesman and a trusted friend.



Weddings

Wright-Triplett

Of particular interest to friends of the contracting parties is the announcement of the wedding of Miss Constance Wright of Elkin to Ralph Triplett of Jonesville. The marriage was solemnized at the Methodist church in Independence, Virginia, Saturday, October 14, with Rev. R. A. Poole officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Madison of Elkin accompanied the young couple to Independence and witnessed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Walter Wright and the late Mrs.

Mary Reynolds Wright. She was educated at Columbus Industrial High School at Columbus, Georgia, where she formerly resided.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Triplett of Jonesville and a graduate of Elkin high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Triplett will make their home for the present with Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Madison.

Hensley-Phillips

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Hensley announce the marriage of their daughter, Frances, to Troy Phillips, August 7, 1933, at Hillsville, Va., with Rev. R. H. Showalters officiating.

Mr. Phillips is the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Phillips, who reside near East Bend. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips will make their home in Winston-Salem where they both hold responsible positions.

Robertson-Norman

Mr. and Mrs. Will Robertson, of Stokesdale, N. C., announce the marriage of their daughter, Ora, to Mr. Cecil Norman, of Winston-Salem, August 7th, at Hillsville, Va., with Rev. R. H. Showalters officiating.

Mr. Norman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Norman of the Mt. Tabor section. Mr. and Mrs. Norman will make their home with Mr. Norman's parents, near Mt. Tabor.

Wood-Hayes

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wood announce the marriage of their daughter, Maude Memphis, to Mr. Doc Hayes, of Cycle, Saturday, Oct. 7th, at Independence, Va., with Rev. T. R. Windsor officiating.

Mr. Hayes is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hayes, of Cycle, and is a service station operator in Arlington.

Mrs. Hayes is employed in the Burling department of the Elkin mill. They will make their home in Jonesville, N. C.

Crescent Philathea Class Entertained

Mrs. Bertha Rhodes and Miss Mable Rhodes were joint hostesses to the members of the Crescent Philathea class of the Chatham Baptist church on Tuesday night, Oct. 17, 1933 at their home on Liberty St. After a short business session games and contests were enjoyed. Fifteen members answered to the roll call. The meeting came to a close with the serving of delicious refreshments to the members and guests.

Mrs. Troy Phillips Honored

Mrs. Granville Coe entertained at her home in West Salem on Friday evening, October 20th.

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