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TOBACCO GROWERS RECEIVE JOLT IN THE SUPREME COURT

Decision Regarded As Important Ruling

Injunction To Force Delivery Will Not Lie Before Preceding Year's Settlement Is Made—If It Wants Equity It Must Do Equity, Court Declares.

Invoking the principle that "he who comes into equity must do so with clean hands" the North Carolina Supreme court held yesterday that the Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Association cannot obtain an injunction to enforce delivery of a member's crop when it has not settled with the member for the preceding year and when the member needs the money from his crop to buy necessary supplies.

Opinions handed down yesterday included two victories for the Co-ops but the defeat looms much larger and is regarded as the most important opinion affecting the association since the original decision holding the law under which the association is chartered to be valid and its contract with members to be binding.

eccived its severe joit by a unani- \$36.80 but the Supreme court takes a mous decision of the court was that contrary view. against J. L. Bland, of Craven county. crop to the association, it further developed that the value of the 1922 crop on the open market would have been about \$1,500 and that at the time of the hearing the defendant had received only about \$300. There was also evidence that the association had devicted \$25.50 from advances to also portionate importance to matter a management, it does not all equity must do so with clean hands."

Judge Hoke distinguishes between the case at bar and those in which restauring in aid of the plaintiff's suit," training orders were continued by declares that opinion, which holds that the failure to settle while preventing ans were inresistance to the association had declared \$25.50 from advances to also.

Output Description of the court of the case at bar and those in which restauring that in those cases the defendant because the failure to settle while preventing and the defendant Bland had declared the court of the case at bar and those in which restauring the failure to settle while preventing and the defendant bland had declared the case of the case at bar and those in which restauring the case at bar and those in wh ducted \$36.80 from advances to plain, tiff on account of failure to deliver tobacco of his tenants. The Supreme court has already held that this de-

ng the injunction.

"While we are of the opinion as At the hearing below it developed that the facts as now presented of which he complains, a position to would not uphold a finding of bad some extent embodied in the more fa1922 crop and two-thirds of his 1923 faith on the part of the association miliar maxim "that he who comes into crop to the association, it further deportionate importance to justify an en-tire severance of the contract relation

After setting forth the facts, Judge the amount due on the crop of 1922 or that there is anything due, but considering the fact that plaintiff kept or The supreme court in its opinion yesterday, which was written by Justice W. A. Hoke holds that this breach of the contract was not material and in veiw of the association's tender of a refund does not constitute ground for dissolving the injunction.

Supering the injunction. amount due are entirely too general

The case in which the association order entirely on the deduction of the way the equitable powers of the court for the protection of his rights must not by his own breach of duty have caused the injuries or threat of them,

> done all in his power to perform the contract.

Such a situation was presented in one of the cases decided yesterday, in which Judge Horton dissolv d an incourt has already held that this ueduction was illegal and that a mem. Hoke has the following to say in purction against Pete Spikes, or Craber of his tenants and this deduction. True, plaintiff has made denial as to the execution of the confidence of his tenants and this deduction. reversed in a brief opinion written by

for dissolving the injunction.

The contract of the association with for a court to look with favor or to its members does not specify when payments are to be made but leaves that matter to the discretion of the tion is justified as follows: "It is reduced the contract on them."

The action in dissolving the injunction.

The action in dissolving the injunction. The action is justified as follows: "It is reduced the contract on these grounds, alleged failure of the association to secure the procuring his signature and mismanagement of the association. A jury found for the association with for a court to look with favor or to association to secure the procuring his signature. Pittman attacked the contract on

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tion on the fraud issue, and the judge set aside an adverse verdict on the signup issue on a question of law. The association contended that Pitt-

nan should have read his contract and in support of this position Chief Jusice Clark says:

"There is no necessity of going over the well settled law in a case where the plaintiff had the fullest opportu-nity to read the paper before signing and where there is no evidence that there was fraud or device to prevent him from reading the same."

Declaring that the decision Wednes-day of the North Carolina Supreme court in the case of the Tobacco Grow-ers' Co-operative Association against L. Bland rests upon the facts pecuto the case, James H. Pou of the Raleigh bar, yesterday issued a state-ment in which he asserts the Court loes not hold that unless the associa ion has settled with its members for one year's crop that it cannot secure an injunction against them to prevent them from selling their next year's erop in violation of their contract.

Mr. Pou's statement follows:

"The opinion holds that the Associa-tion directors are given the discretion to sell the tobacco when they see fit, and unless they are guilty of fraud or bad faith, or delay so unreasonable that bad faith can be inferred, their management of the business cannot be attacked. The Court does not hold that unless the Association has settled with its members for one year's crop, t cannot secure an injunction against them to prevent them from selling their next year's crop in violation of GAL TWO—Tobacco Growers Receive their contract. It follows that the Association is not compelled to make a final accounting for one year's crop before the next is harvested and de-livered to it.

"The decision rests upon the facts peculiar to the case and without passing at all upon the rights of the Asso-ciation to enforce its contract against Mr. Bland, holds that prior to the trial by jury they cannot say that the trial udge in his discretion committed er-

ror in refusing to grant a preliminary injunction when the defendant had endeavored in every way possible to per-form his contract, was compelled to sell a small portion of his crop outside of the Association, and when the re-cord does not disclose that the Association gave to defendant, upon his request, an accurate statement of his account with the Association.
"The Superior Court required

fendant to give bond to protect the Co-ops and referred the matter to the jury to be tried on the merits. The Supreme Court approved the lower ourt and the case now stands rial in the regular course.

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