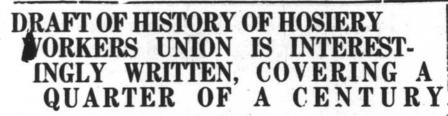
CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL and DIXIE FARM NEWS



(Taken in Part from Fortune Magazine)

(Continued from Last Week)

cutting, which has entered into an offensive and defensive alliance with its manufacturers, and which is the white hope of stabilization in a chaotic industry.

AND UP

Up to 1925, the American Federa- ers, seamers, boarders, menders, pair-tion of Full Fashioned Hosiery Work- ers, stampers, boxers—a great army ers (hereinafter known as "The Un- of auxiliary workers. In 1919, some 6,300,000 dozen pairs produced; in 1925 this figure was

All these men and women had come

ion") was just another labor union. which is to say that it was a composite picture of the economic hopes, fears, and desires of several thousand human beings. These men and women lived for the most part in Philadelphia. They lived there because their existence was bound up in the great hosiery mills which centered there. Most of them had another common characteristic: they wore glasses. For the making of full-fashioned hosiery is a job in which the years of high production are limited by eve-strain. Most of the union's members were men; skilled knitters, The women members of the union, less numerous then than now (when they outnumber the men over 40 or 50 knitters formed their own

eral presidents held office without leaving jobs at the mill. Then in 1911, Big Frank McKosky, left his knitting machine to devote his suave persua-siveness to the duties of a business agent on full time. In 1925 Big Frank had long returned from lead-ership to chiropractice and had been succeeded by a keen, conciliatory lit-tle man named Gustave Geiges, who was like the elder Reckefeller, a Bapings made short skirts wearable." The full-fashioned boom began tentatively in 1919, sprang into full flower in 1925, and has lasted ever since. It has outlasted the Flapper; it has even outlasted the Four short stirt. It has was like the elder Reckefeller, a Bap-tist, no Socialist. The little band of forty had become 4,000 men and 8,000 The story of a hard-boiled union which does its own wage-tering the promised land of high even outlasted the short skirt. It has proved to be as permanent a rise in post war booms suddenly roared up like a rocket into the industrial heavthe American standard of living as the post-war automobile boom. In

1919, some 60 per cent of total women's hosiery consumed was seamless as against only 20 per cent full-fash-12,300,000 and by 1929 it had reachtogether in the Union for one great ed 26,900,000 dozen-i. e., 322,800,000 purpose; to keep their wages at as pairs of full-fashioned silk stockings tion

high levels as possible. For this, they or eight pairs per annum for each had gone through costly strikes, as and every United States female above in the big Philadelphia 1921 strike, ten years of age. This whole boom, which cost over \$150,000; for this which determined the fortunes of they had lived for months on strike thousands of workers, was based on pay of \$16 a week for married men the distinction between seamless thinand \$8 for the unmarried; for this, ly cotton) and full fashioned mainly many of them ran a daily risk of be-ing fired by non-union employers; for ings are knitted as tubes of about the throughout. They silk) hosiery. Now seamless stockthis, they had stood long watches on same diameter throughout. They try, the fight had been a hard one. In 1899 the Philadelphia leggers Full fashioned stockings, on the con-trary, are knitted flat with the edges

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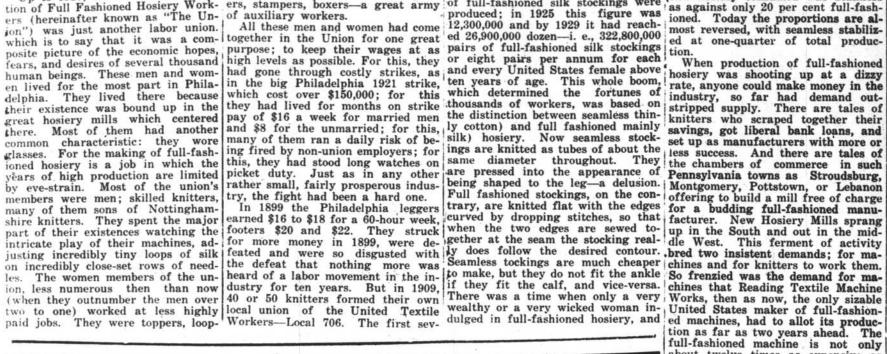
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tion as far as two years ahead. The full-fashioned machine is not only about twelve times as expensive as the seamless (\$8,000 as against \$600) but it is also much more complex so that skilled knitters are required to wo k-it whereas unskilled girls operate seamless machines. With knitters in demand everywhe e, wage soared up to fabulous heights, until knitters were getting \$75 and more a week, and were the highest paid skilled labor in the country. There were many cases of knitters making \$5,000 many cases of knitters making \$5,000 and over a year. But the manufac-turers apparently cared little what (wages they paid (non-union shops) were often as well paid as union shops), providing they got produc-tion. This they got in bigger and bigger chunks, but never quite enough to satisfy them. In the last year of to satisfy them. In the last year of the boom (1929) the industry's productive_capacity actually increased 25 per cent. Which as we shall see,

was 25 per cent too much. Meanwhile, what of the Union? Its rank and file, the thousands of knitters and toppers and loopers who worked night and day in the hum-ming mills of Philadelphia and other hosiery centers, were uncritically en-thusiastic about the high wages they were receiving. And there was no doubt that so far as increasing numbers were concerned, the Union was flourishing like a green bay tree. (Of the 30,000 members of the entire United Textile Workers in 1929, some 15,000 belonged to the Union we are considering. But the boom was not an unmixed blessing to the Union. While the Union treasury was get-ting comfortably full and the Union



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SET-ground proportionately in the indus-try. For as new mills opened up, they showed a natural tendency to pick out non-union localities. And gaining members, it was losing Answer Your Problems of USE . . . ZORIC ECONOMY some Union mils, anxious to get pro-duction without interruption of labor A Size To **Dry Cleaning** troubles, moved away into non-union territory. became, in the contemptu-ous slang of the Union, a "runaway mill." Thus it came about that dur-ANE DOMESTIC LAUNDRY Phone 5178 QUALITY **Fit Your** ing the boom the unionized propor-tion of the industry dropped from over 75 per cent to under 60 per Need cent Follow this story and find how you Drink fit into this picture. (Continued next week) AS LOW AS 0 FOREMOST MILK **\$1 PER WEEK Famous** for It's Healthful Bargains **Trade In Your** FOREMOST DAIRIES, INC. **Old Stove** 2-'33 Dodge Pick-up __ \$325 (CHARLOTTE DAIRIES) Phones 7116-7117 1-'35 \$425 Pick-up THIS BEAUT!FUL -28 \$95 Panell 12-PIECE ALUMINUM **DR. SAM LEVY** 1--'34 1% Ton Tractor_ \$425 IS INCLUDED **Charlotte's Pioneer Optometrist** WITH EVERY RANGE 11/2 ton Chevrolet \$250 1-'31 Byes Examined — Glasses Fitted Respector of Better Eyeglasses Since 1899 DURING THIS SALE Phone 7151 1091/2 South Church Street for Demonstration **Complete Optical Service** Phone 3-4864 And Many Other Fine Cars to Choose From. Trades Liberal Terms Good Norfleet Motors Co., FOR COLDS! SOME OF THE THINGS INC. AND FLU WE LEND MONEY ON th at Poplar Dial 7151 We Recommend COLDEX AND ORDER C. B. ASPIRIN All Business Strictly Confivant's -Set consists of a large five-quart tea kettle, two sauce pans, one large roaster with selfdential. When in Need of basting cover, family size double boiler, eight-cup percolator, large pie plate and one com-Money We Never Fail bination bread or meat loaf pan. HIGH-HEAT You ANDREWS LOW-ASH **Reliable Loan Co. PAYNE-FARRIS CO**[•] **MUSIC CO.** 209 East Trade Street "EVERYTHING MUSICAL" See Us for Bargains in Diamond **PHONE 8483** 116 S. COLLEGE ST. CHARLOTTE WOOD AND COKE Watches, Jewelry, Clothing, etc. 231 N. Tryon St. **PHONE 8184**