

SOUTHERN MILLS HAVE ADVANTAGE

Hydro-Electric Power Declared to be Basis of Textile Success in Piedmont Section of State.

The National Association of Cotton Manufacturers, composed almost entirely of New England concerns, recently met in its 115th annual session.

The chief subject under discussion was not any means of expanding New England's textile industry or broadening its markets; but rather the question of survival.

It was recognized with the candor of the business mind that the mills this association represents face the necessity of securing better conditions as to power or surrendering finally to Southern competition. In this connection the president, Robert Amory, pointed out:

For the last year and a half there has been practically no new construction. There has not even been sufficient replacement of worn-out machinery. Mills are operating at 50 per cent and less of full single shift production. In the Carolinas operation was for full and overtime. In the last two months for which figures were available Massachusetts ran 66 and Carolina 121 per cent.

Southern Mills and Raw Materials. Seeking the causes which have precipitated such a crisis, Mr. Amory attacks as a fallacy the idea that Southern cotton mills owe their increasing predominance to the fact that they are "located in the cotton belt." In the great cotton mill district of the South, the Piedmont (Virginia, North and South Carolina and Georgia), in the year August 1, 1921, to August 1, 1922, consumed 5,916,000 bales against 2,087,000 bales produced within the states in which its mills are situated. Not only did it import 929,000 bales for manufacture, but was forced to get the cotton grown in its own states by a fairly long railway haul at heavy freight charges. Since New England's cotton can come from almost anywhere in the cotton belt by water, the difference in the freight rate is negligible and, in addition, the New England manufacturer has all the advantage in obtaining the foreign cottons of India, Egypt, Brazil, China and Peru. Yet the difference in cost of production has meant that New England mills have suffered intermittent operation, partial employment, and a loss of profit that threatens not only the primary but the existence of the industry.

Further analyzing the situation, Mr. Amory denies the statement that New England labor is inferior in quality, or that management is inefficient. His explanation, finally, is that politics is the cause. The mills are hampered by a superfluity of laws, nominally humane and beneficial, which in practice prevent the operation of two shifts and thus minimize production, prevent competition in the cheaper grades, and make it impossible to secure adequate utilization of plant. The only remedy he suggests is an appeal to the legislative bodies to repeal these restrictive statutes—a dream and a decision desperate on its face.

Power and Piedmont
It will be noted, however, that there is one question on which Mr. Amory does not touch—a matter that explains why the Piedmont empire of textile manufacture has been able to expand and run full time and take on the character of magnet to a basic industry.

That is the incident of hydro-electric power. Next to labor, power is the chief production cost. Given abundant and relatively cheap power, freight charges for raw material become a secondary factor. In the case of cotton goods, where the product is of light weight, distribution is fairly independent of location, so that production costs are reasonable. Look at any railroad map of the Piedmont and one will see the dots indicating cotton manufacture clustered like a pattern of shot from a choke-bored gun about the power lines. So long as it was a mere question of distance to the cotton fields, New England's advantages of water transportation gave her something better than a competing chance. Now that it has come to the point where the Southern mill has the advantage of hydro-electric power, the latter can haul its cotton long distances from its own fields and import it from other states and abroad, meet a competition seeking enough business to run part time, and still find enough to do to keep going overtime.

Political Drawbacks
Concede that what Mr. Amory says about hostile legislation is true, and it will be found that his defense of New England labor is disingenuous. That labor is not so much independent as hostile, in contradistinction to the co-operative spirit displayed by the native industrial labor of the South. If New England mills are hampered by hostile legislation, it is because New England labor has been playing politics instead of teaming up with industry, and so has been killing its own goose.

If that is true, what a warning it is to the Piedmont of the several states and to North Carolina particularly to see that the crippling process applied by New England labor is not here adopted in a different form to the same effect. Carolina

PRaises CHATHAM'S NEW COUNTY HOME

Raleigh, Dec. 24.—Chatham County's new county home is described as one of the best in the State by Roy M. Brown of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare. Mr. Brown recently visited the home which is located about two miles from Pittsboro.

The home has been constructed during the past year and can accommodate 40 persons. Mr. Brown declares that it presents a cheerful appearance both outside and inside and that the wants of the inmates are cared for excellently.

BAIL ALLOWED IN JONES CASE

Newland Farmer Gives Bond for \$25,000 for Appearance before Magistrate Wilson on Murder Charge.

Alex Jones, in line with the forecast made by this newspaper Saturday, faces a charge of murder on a warrant sworn out before Magistrate T. B. Wilson and is under \$25,000 bond for his appearance before Mr. Wilson for a preliminary hearing next Friday.

The warrant was issued Sunday evening at about 5 o'clock, following the death of Alfred Ferbee, colored, in the Community Hospital at about 4:30, and was served with an hour by Sheriff Charles Reid and Deputy Sheriff Pritchard on Mr. Jones at his home in Newland. Bond was allowed by the court at the suggestion of Solicitor Small.

Ferbee's death was due to a blow on the head alleged to have been inflicted by Mr. Jones Thursday evening about dusk as a result of an argument over money which the negro is said to have claimed Mr. Jones owed him.

The negro was brought to the hospital Thursday night, at which time it was thought that there might be some hope for him; but since Saturday afternoon hope of saving his life had been practically abandoned.

The more usual procedure would have been for Trial Justice Spence of the recorder's court to have issued the warrant and to have presided at the preliminary hearing, but Sheriff Reid, when he received advice that Ferbee was dead and instructions to obtain a warrant for Mr. Jones at once on a murder charge and to serve it at once could not locate Mr. Spence, who was out taking a short automobile ride at the time. At the suggestion of Solicitor Small, therefore, the sheriff obtained the warrant from Magistrate Wilson, and Mr. Wilson will preside at the preliminary hearing.

USE OF AIRPLANE PROVED PRACTICAL
Washington, Dec. 24.—The use of the airplane in combating the boll weevil has been proved practical, according to an announcement by the United States Department of Agriculture. Calcium arsenate is the most effective poison of the weevil and other cotton pests, according to the department.

CHARTERS GRANTED

Raleigh, Dec. 24.—The following charter of incorporation was granted recently by the Secretary of State, W. N. Everett:

Selgman, Williams & Ball, Inc., South Mills, N. C., to buy and sell lumber and do a general logging business with a capital stock of \$125,000 and D. E. Williams, F. W. Williams and S. G. Selgman and Harrison Ball as incorporators.

mills are not operated by a class amenable to agitators. As to the native labor, the acceptance of the rule of live and let live has procured good living and working conditions without the punishment of the industry by which its living comes. It is necessary that in the case of power, the next essential, the State be preserved from the reckless political interest that would artificially limit the expansion of the mill industry by prohibitive restrictions upon the allied enterprise upon which it must depend for the economical turning of its wheels.

Keep the Edge Sharp
If the logical permanent ascendancy of the Piedmont in the textile world is to work itself out to a conclusion, there must be a quick multiplication of power resources. Capital requirements to bring this about will be even greater than those to take care of the addition of textile manufactures which would be responsive to the development. The Piedmont now has the edge. It is a question of dulling or keeping it sharp.

The dream of bringing the New England textile mills to a South ready to absorb and furnish their release from alien labor domination is rich but justified.

But it must be remembered that the preparation for such an economic adjustment is a tremendous task—of which hydro-electric development is the chief incident.

To the first question of labor, the State can answer satisfactorily. It must make sure that it can answer the next question of power in the affirmative.—Natural Resources.

COUPLE RETURN OF OWN ACCORD

Richard L. Ward, 35-year-old Shiloh farmer, and Miss Mattie Simpson, 24-year-old Shiloh girl, who left that community together with \$500 belonging to the girl's stepfather, on the night of November 15, returned Sunday night of their own accord, according to reports reaching Elizabeth City Monday.

The girl went to her home and the man went to his wife and two children. They returned \$350 or \$450 of the money, according to reports, which vary as to the amount brought back.

It is not yet known what sort of welcome the prodigals received at their homes, but the neighbors of the community declare that they are not particularly proud of the couple and their conduct, and cannot give them a very joyous welcome, even if it is Christmas time and the season of good will to all.

LEXINGTON GETS JUNIOR ORPHANAGE

Raleigh, Dec. 24.—Lexington has been selected as the site for the orphanage to be erected in North Carolina by the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, according to a telegram received by W. A. Cooper, chairman of the State Orphanage Committee from J. D. Tunison, New York chairman of the national site committee of the order. A \$500,000 building is to be erected with a \$500,000 addition to be constructed later, it was stated.

FICQUETT-MIDGETT
Miss Alma Midgett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Midgett of Fearing street, this city, and daughter of Shiloh High School faculty, and Mr. Arthur Ficquett of Lowville, were married Sunday morning at 10:30 o'clock by Dr. N. H. D. Wilson, at his home on East Church street, in the presence of a few relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Ficquett left on the 11:15 train for their wedding trip and to visit relatives at Columbia, S. C. After January 5 they will be at home at Shiloh.

W. A. LEE GETS ROAD SENTENCE FOR LARCENY
A sentence of four months on the roads was imposed in recorder's court Monday on W. A. Lee, white man, for larceny. The store of W. J. Woodley, wholesale grocer, was broken into Saturday evening or Saturday night and candy from the Woodley store was found in a woodshed on the defendant's premises. He told conflicting stories to the police about buying the candy from a negro; and besides, the police claim, gave them a number of false tips Saturday night that took them of Poindexter and Water streets as one might have who sought a clear field for his own operations in that area.

The Woodley store was entered from the roof through the skylight. R. E. Lassiter, for simple assault, was taxed with the costs.

Sam Smith and Calvin Patrick were found guilty of participating in an affray and Patrick drew a fine of \$5 and costs, while Smith was let off with the costs.

Howard Roughton, for assault on Henry "Dinkey" Divers, was let off with the costs.

George Jordan, colored, for slapping his wife, was let off with the costs; while Nelson Whitehurst, also colored, for a more serious assault on his wife, was fined \$10 and costs.

Noah McMurren, colored, for failure to pay dog tax, was let off with taxes and costs.

It being Christmas Eve, Trial Justice Spence was disposed to deal as lightly as possible with all offenders.

AFRAID GO CHURCH BECAUSE OF THREATS

Convent, N. J., Dec. 24.—Threats of serious consequence if he again visited Grace Episcopal Church with his prospective foster son, are declared by Mondell Sayre, wealthy patron of Francis Kluzen, to have been the reason for his absence at services. The school boy was last year acquitted of the murder of a school girl at Madison. Many threats have been made against the boy's life, Sayre says.

MAJOR W. A. GRAHAM DIES OF PNEUMONIA

Raleigh December 24.—Major W. A. Graham, State commissioner of agriculture, died at 4:35 this morning at a local hospital after several days illness from pneumonia.

JUNIORS WILL ATTEND FUNERAL IN A BODY

The officers and members of Worth Bagley Council, No. 69, J. O. Q. U. A. M., are requested by their councilor, J. E. Corbett, to meet in their hall Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 to attend the funeral of O. C. Bray at three o'clock at his home on Burgess street.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Harper of Newport News are visiting Harper's sister, Mrs. J. T. Stallings, on North street.

SHIPMAN SEES ROSY PICTURE

Commissioner Makes Prediction For 1921 Used On Reports From All Parts Of The State

Raleigh, Dec. 24.—A rosy picture for 1924 is painted by Commissioner M. L. Shipman of the Department of Labor and Printing in a report issued to him in which he reviewed the industrial and agricultural situation in North Carolina during 1923 and made a prediction for 1924 based on reports to his department from all sections of the State. Mr. Shipman's department usually does not issue a report except biennially but as Federal Commissioner of Labor for North Carolina he assessed the information on which the report is based for the Department of Labor at Washington, that department having requested it in preparing a general review of conditions of the country.

Taking up building activities, municipal improvements, factory conditions, crop conditions, road building and school building programs, Mr. Shipman discussed the 1923 accomplishments and based his forecast for 1924 and what actually has been appropriated for work during that year, winding up with the assertion that "it is safe to say" that the activities predicted for the coming year "will carry the State in 1924 through a period of prosperity as great and perhaps greater than in that of 1923. The farmers are hopeful, building activities are constantly expanding, road building will be continued at an equal speed to that of 1923, municipal programs are larger than heretofore, manufacturing plants are operating at full time basis with no prospect of a let-up and the general situation is excellent in every respect. North Carolina, according to every indication, will have a year of prosperity when labor of every kind and classification will be fully employed and during which the people as a whole, it is expected, will experience a period of material prosperity equally as great as 1923 and perhaps greater."

Mr. Shipman's report discussed the crop situation in 1923. "Its crops have exceeded all expectations," he said. "Its farmers have been fortunate that the large cotton crop came at a time when there was an apparent shortage in the country's crop and the resultant high prices for the product greatly improved the purchasing power of the farmer." Of tobacco he said that the large crop raised while it would not bring as large a price per pound probably would give a return greater than ever before realized on one year's tobacco crop. A slight reduction in tobacco acreage in 1924 was predicted with an increase in cotton acreage and diversified farming.

Road building, Mr. Shipman declared, will be continued in the same manner as in 1923. The Highway Commission's report showed a contemplated program of 800 miles of roads for the year with 500 in hard surfaced roads, an appropriation of 18 millions being available for new construction, two millions being on hand for contracts let but not begun and with a number of projects as yet uncompleted to be completed during 1924.

VENIZELOS WANTS TO KNOW THE SITUATION
(By The Associated Press.)
Athens, Dec. 24.—Venizelos today telegraphed from Paris to Col. Plastiras of the revolutionary committee requesting information on the relative strength of contending parties in Greece.

LADY ASTOR SENDS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
London, Dec. 24.—Lady Astor in her Christmas message today to the United States and Canada made reference to war days when she helped minister to the wounded Canadians on the Astor estate, saying "When Christmas comes my heart turns back to Dixie and Canada and I hope our Cliveden Canadians miss us just a little. I shall think of them and drink to their health in Grade A milk, the kind they know so well."

SAYS DISCUSSIONS WILL PROVE HELPFUL
Boston, Dec. 24.—Bishop William B. Lawrence of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of Massachusetts, declared yesterday that the theological battle being waged between modernists and fundamentalists shows an interest in religion and will be helpful. The Christian who supports his faith by intelligent thought is stronger than he who thinks not, he asserted.

IMPORTS EXCEEDED EXPORTS IN VALUE
Washington, Dec. 24.—Imports of agricultural products exceeded exports during the fiscal year probably for the first time in history, amounting to \$388,000,000 over exports of the previous year.

The shift of balance in trade in agricultural products in favor of foreign countries is attributed by the Department of Agriculture chiefly to increased value of imports and the decreased value of exports.

LOS ANGELES MAN THIRD ON COMMITTEE

(By The Associated Press.)
Paris, December 24.—Henry M. Robinson, Los Angeles lawyer and banker, was today selected as the third American to serve on the committee to investigate Germany's finances under the auspices of the reparations commission.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS SUNG AT WHITE HOUSE

Washington, December 24.—All the gates of the White House grounds will be thrown open tonight while Christmas carols will be sung at the north entrance of the executive mansion.

Mrs. Coolidge is the moving spirit in reviving the old custom and at her invitation the public will take part in the celebration.

ANNOUNCE RELEASE COUNTESS GEORGIANA

Dublin, December 24.—The Free State government today announced the release of Countess Georgiana Markievicz, one of the leading women republicans arrested here November 20. The government announced that between December 1 and 23 political prisoners numbering 33,481 had been liberated.

MISS HATTIE BERRY PAYS VIRGINIA VISIT

Richmond, Dec. 24.—The credit union movement for agricultural interests is getting under way in Virginia as a result of a recent visit of Miss Hattie Berry secretary of the North Carolina Credit Union Association. Miss Berry addressed a representative group of agricultural workers, professors and heads of marketing divisions in Virginia. The meeting was to plan for a five year program for the improvement of agricultural conditions in Virginia, the credit union system being included in the program. Virginia is planning to put a man in charge of organizing a credit union system similar to that in North Carolina.

LITTLE GIRL IMPROVES AFTER SERIOUS ILLNESS
Retha Needham, aged 6, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Needham of Shiloh, was taken seriously ill Thursday, but is now improving. Mr. and Mrs. Needham had expected to spend Christmas at Mrs. Needham's home in Salisbury, Maryland, but her little girl's illness prevented the trip. They hope now to be able to go Thursday.

COAST GUARD MAN DIES AT HOSPITAL

O. F. Midgett died at the Community Hospital Sunday night at eight o'clock of pneumonia.

Mr. Midgett is a member of the Coast Guard of Chincoteague Station and his home is at Rodanthe. For several weeks he had been at Edgewater taking a course in the operation of gas engines and while there contracted pneumonia. On his way home he entered the Community Hospital here last Monday where he had been until his death.

He is survived by his wife; two children; his mother, Mrs. Bessie Midgett of Manns Harbor; and several brothers and sisters among whom are Mrs. Charles Hopkins and Alexander Midgett of this city.

Mr. Midgett's body was taken to Manteo on a supply boat Monday morning.

TWINE-WHITE

Norfolk, Dec. 24.—The marriage of Miss Adelaide White, daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth F. White, of Elizabeth City, N. C., and Clarence Elbert Twine, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Twine, of this city, took place Saturday evening at 7 o'clock, at the home of Dr. J. W. Moore, pastor of the Epworth Methodist Church. The bride wore a traveling suit of brown marcella cloth trimmed with fox fur and a hat to match, and her flowers were a corsage bouquet of bride roses and lilies of the valley. Mrs. G. T. Winslow, sister of the bride, was the matron of honor. She wore a gown of black satin and a black picture hat and carried an arm bouquet of sunset roses. The bridegroom had as his best man, G. T. Winslow. Immediately after the ceremony Mr. Twine and his bride left for a short wedding trip, after which they will make their home in this city.

CHLOROFORM DOG AND ROB THE HOME

Philadelphia, Dec. 24.—Chloroforming the watchdog, bandits robbed the home of Crossdale Knott at Glenside of liquors worth \$11,000 Saturday. It became known today. They dropped \$6,500 in bonds taken from a desk.

OTTO WOOD FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER

Greensboro, Dec. 24.—Otto Wood, on trial here in connection with the death of W. Kaplan, local pawnbroker, was found guilty of second degree murder yesterday by the jury sitting in the case. The maximum sentence of 20 years in the penitentiary was recommended.

O. C. BRAY DIED MONDAY MORNING

Was Getting Along Well Until Pneumonia Set In. When He Had No Chance for Recovery from Wounds.

O. C. Bray died at 6:55 Monday morning at the Community Hospital, where he was taken on Friday night, December 7, in a critical condition, as the result of a bullet wound in the hip and abdomen received when he was held up by a bandit, supposedly LeRoy (Sage) White, now lodged in jail.

Mr. Bray was getting along well with his wounds healing satisfactorily, until pneumonia set in. This disease, in his weakened condition he was unable to combat.

Mr. Bray was born in Camden County, but had lived in Elizabeth City for the last 16 years. He was in the insurance business here and was out soliciting business when held up by the bandit on the night of December 7. He was one of the kindest and gentlest of men, and his untimely death brings sadness to the community.

The funeral will be conducted at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon at the home on West Burgess street, by Dr. S. H. Templeman and interment will be made in Hollywood Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife; two little girls, Dorothy and Ruth Bray; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Bray of Martin street; two sisters, Mrs. Tom Whaley of Shiloh and Mrs. C. P. Harris of this city; and two brothers, Robert Bray of Belcross and Frank Bray of Norfolk.

OFFERS ATTORNEY PINT OF HIS BLOOD

Paris, December 24.—A man named L. Rappell who said that Thomas Lee Woolwine, former district attorney of Los Angeles, had sent him to prison, called at the hotel today and offered to give Woolwine, who is very ill, a pint of his blood. The offer was neglected because the physicians had already decided to take the blood from a little hotel maid.

REBELS APPROACHING THE MEXICAN CAPITAL

(By The Associated Press.)
Vera Cruz, December 24.—The rebels made their nearest approach to Mexico City with the capture yesterday of Cuernavaca, 40 miles south of the capital, a revolutionary communique says. Otherwise the general situation is unchanged and Puebla has not been evacuated, the statement says.

DEVIL TURNED LOOSE IN COUNTY OF WILSON

Wilson, Dec. 24.—"During my ten years on the Superior Court bench I have found no such condition existing in North Carolina as I find in Wilson, my native county," declared Judge George W. Connor addressing the grand jury here at opening of court this week. "The devil seems to be turned loose here as the wild spirit of lawlessness is running amok. I find on the criminal docket 231 cases embracing all grades of lawlessness. . . . This condition of things, I am ashamed of and I am sure each one of you feel the same way." The judge urged that the grand jury take effective steps to curb the alleged crime wave in Wilson County and promised his fullest support.

OBSERVE SUNDAY HOURS

The local Western Union will observe Sunday hours on Christmas Day, and Manager Sykes says that the co-operation of the public in such observance will be appreciated. The hours are 9 to 10 a. m., and 5 to 6 p. m.

LITTLE GIRL GETS FREEDOM FROM PAIN

Camden, N. J., Dec. 24.—The Christmas season brought the 13 year old girl, Helen Hamilton, the gift she most desired and for which she had prayed—death.

After months of intolerable pain due to rupture of the heart as the result of a childish prank eight years ago, the heroic girl died yesterday in her mother's arms, tightly clasping her favorite doll which she asked to have buried with her.

She had prayed that she might live until her birthday, November 26, and hoped that she might die that day. Her case had attracted nation-wide attention.

When it became known that the girl died with her fortune in poverty a substantial fund was raised and gifts of all descriptions were sent from many parts of the country.

COTTON MARKET

New York, December 24.—Cotton futures closed this afternoon at the following levels: December 34.95; January 34.78; March 35.17; May 35.32; July 34.47; October 28.65.

New York, December 24.—Cotton futures opened this morning at the following levels: December 34.39; January 34.99; March 35.22; May 35.32; July 34.46; October 28.52.