

C. W. Bolick, Commander in Shelby Strike, Sees U. T. W. "Unreliable" in Resignation

CHARLOTTE, April 22.—C. W. Bolick, who commanded the Shelby strike front in February, 1934, during the Cleveland Cloth mill walk-out, a strike finally settled by the National Textile Labor relations board in meeting in Shelby, has resigned as organizer for the United Textile Workers.

"I have learned from bitter experience," he says, "that the United Textile Workers is a very unstable and unreliable organization, and is made so because the leaders do not practice what they preach."

He explains his resignation in a communication to the "Textile Bulletin," from which the following quotations are taken:

Bolick Statement.

First of all, I wish to impress on the readers mind that I am dealing only with facts—I have been in the employ of the United Textile Workers of America approximately five years, directly representing them in organizing textile workers and serving in other capacities.

With all good faith I joined the United Textile Workers of America, about 1931, and soon thereafter became an organizer. My experience in the movement, has been great, and I have dealt with managers of the textile industry and with many thousands of textile workers. This article was inspired by a feeling of pathos for the cotton mill workers.

I have learned from bitter experience that the United Textile Workers is a very unstable and unreliable organization, and is made so because the leaders do not practice what they preach. They preach higher wages and shorter hours and better working conditions. Some of their own employes, those looking after local unions, work very long hours, and get very small pay, while the leaders and organizers usually get very good pay. I am not grumbling about my own salary, however, I was never paid what I was promised and worked for a long time, getting paid every two weeks, for what I was promised for one week. They claimed that the funds were low and I was told that they could not do any better. I received a letter from President McMahon to cut down expenses as much as possible but I learned that the executive board was, at that time, jumping on him because he was, himself, wasting money in many ways and was reporting unnecessary expenses. All textile workers who are members of the U.T.W. will remember

that the money the U.T.W. spends is of their per capita tax and initiation fees. The U.T.W. promised the workers much spoil if they would join their go-getter organization.

Had High Hopes.

I joined under the promise and worked hard for the U.T.W. and was loyal and in earnest about all my work. I told the workers after they joined the United Textile Workers of America, paid their per capita tax, initiation fee, and kept up their dues and stuck with the organization, all they would have to do would be to ask and they would receive.

My service has covered a great portion of the Southeastern states. I have come in contact with many thousands of textile workers and they know my sincerity and my anxiety for the welfare of the mill people, and there was no question of my loyalty to the cause of labor. My work in many parts of the Southern States stands today as a monument of good service, but my ideas are such that would be impossible for me to work in harmony with Third Vice-president John A. Peel, who has an office in Greenville, S. C., and is supposed to be supervising the organizing work in the Southern states.

Mr. Peel is a carpenter, not a textile worker, and I do not believe that he knows much about textile workers or has any real interest in their welfare. Why he holds such a position, when he is unqualified and has never been a textile worker, is more than I know and more than many others can understand. A petition has been sent to U.T.W. headquarters by many workers in the State of South Carolina asking for Peel's resignation. I say that he should be removed from office and will give my reasons: First, he is not a qualified textile worker; second, he is practicing the discriminations which he, as well as the U.T.W. and all their representatives preach against. I have letters to prove the above statement. John Peel is a carpenter and many of the others placed in charge of textile unions in the South were printers. I am a qualified textile worker, having about 30 years experience in all departments of the mill, and served ten years or more as overseer in several departments and have a record as good as can be found, but it did not suit John Peel a carpenter, to have a textile worker as an organizer or supervisor.

Emotional Strike.

I want to give some of the facts about the big strike last September. I think the strike was the most emotional they ever had. The union members were worked up by big speech-making, and promises of better things. The workers got all excited; they were ready for the big day to come; and after it was all over they were going to get better wages, etc., as they were promised—and, I helped make the promises. But, what really did happen? The strike was called on Saturday night, September 1, 1934 Monday was Labor day and we all got ready that day, holding big mass meetings and making big, long-drawn-out speeches. Tuesday, September 4th, the exciting time was on hand. I was in Columbus, Ga., and we closed down every mill there. The workers believed they were going to get what they were promised because they had obeyed orders and were looking for the U.T.W. now to do their part.

Now what did the U.T.W. do? Flying squadrons were sent out to different places, that had not struck, and they forced the workers out. I had been to Rockmart, Cedar town, Aragon and other places around Rome, Ga., and advised the workers not to strike, in some of the mills, where there were but few members, as the others did not want to strike. John Peel, third vice president, put S. A. Hollihan, a former life insurance agent, in charge of the strike in the State of Georgia. Mr. Hollihan had his office in Atlanta, and one day while I was in Atlanta Mr. Hollihan asked me for money to finance the flying squadron; I refused to let him have it. He said all right, I'll get it, and I suppose he did. Anyway, the flying squadrons went into Aragon and other places and forced the workers out. Several fights occurred and some workers were badly beaten up and run off from their homes. After the flying squadrons left, the workers beat up some of the union members and I saw some with their heads bruised and badly cut. Their heads were almost covered with bandages.

U.T.W. Did Nothing

What did the U.T.W. ever do for them? Nothing. Write them or visit them and ask any question you may like. I can say that the flying squadrons shot the works and did damage to the cause of union labor that will never be repaired.

I tried to get help for the poor

workers who had their heads beat up, or were in need of food and medicine, but never got any. I tried to get help for those run off from their homes, but failed. The workers called on John Peel, third vice president, for help and I think they got a few promises, but, ask the workers how much help they got. I felt sorry for them as some had no homes to go to, no jobs and no money and could get no help.

Yet Mr. Peel was receiving his \$50 per week and expenses. I was getting my salary and all other U.T.W. officials yet, I was powerless to help the jobless workers. After the strike was called off there were thousands of workers out of jobs and money. How many of them are receiving help from the U.T.W. now? The poor workers have been so disappointed in all their expectations that very few are now looking to the U.T.W. for anything. They are dropping out of the union by the thousand all over the country. Members of the union know I was honest and dealt with them as fairly as any one could, but I have found out the U.T.W. does not practice what it preaches and I never expect to work for them again or be a member.

Lost Jobs and Homes.

Looking at the workers' side as the U.T.W. pictured it to me, I believed that the only thing for them to do was join the union and soon they would have a haven of rest. But as time went on worker after worker lost his job and instead of the expected spoils which were to be their dividends they lost their jobs and were evicted from their homes because they did what the U.T.W. told them to do. There are many things, in detail, I could say if it did not take too long to write, but in spite of the statements which have been issued, I have been unable to see where the textile workers gained anything as the result of the strike. Many of those who are now out of jobs because of things they did during the strike were only obeying the orders and the instructions which were given them.

I think I can understand better, now, why so many union members

and workers are out of their jobs and I believe the reader can, too. I wonder if the U.T.W. is going to try it by pulling another big strike which they are threatening? The textile workers have not forgotten their troubles of last September and will not be easily fooled, so soon, again. I hope all textile workers will remember me and not blame me for their troubles, for I did what I thought was best, and that is why I have written this article.

Likely I will receive much criticism from some labor leaders for writing this article but why should I not criticize the wrong practice? We cannot help others when we are guilty of the things we preach against.

This article has not been written through any malicious feeling. I have only given facts, and have more to give if necessary.

C. W. BOLICK.

1,400 ASK FOR FARM LOANS IN SPARTANBURG

The Spartanburg Production Credit association has received approximately 1,400 applications for crop loans from farmers in three counties of this area, the applications totaling about \$400,000. W. A. Hambright, secretary-treasurer, announced.

He said about 1,000 of these applications have been closed, totaling \$300,000.

This year's total applications closed marks an increase over last year's total of \$260,000.

AMOSKEG MILL LOSES OVER ONE MILLION

MANCHESTER, N. H., April 24.—A net loss of \$1,088,458.20 for 1934 was reported by Frederic C. Du Maine, treasurer of the Amoskeg Manufacturing company, one of the largest cotton textile units in the world, at the annual meeting of stockholders here.

Little figures of horses found in the ruins of an Assyrian city revealed that horses were known in Mesopotamia as early as 300 B. C.

Beach Styles for 1935 Even More Stream-Lined



Some 1935 styles

Figures show that there will either be more drownings in 1935 or fewer men will go in swimming. At least the figures shown above modeling the 1935 bathing suit styles indicate that the poor male is going to have a hard time concentrating on swimming this season. One of the more dashing numbers calls for a little net judiciously arranged over a silken lining. Another novel design is created from cellophane. Native Tahitian prints in riotous colors will also be smart. Generally speaking, the 1935 beach styles will depend to a great extent on one's coat of tan.

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