

# Review Of The Situation In Huntsville, Alabama

(The following story was recently clipped from a Southern newspaper and resembles closely similar items which have appeared frequently in New England papers.)

## FLETCHER MILL MACHINERY SOLD

Huntsville, Ala. — The former Huntsville Cotton Mill, the oldest textile plant in this section, now the Fletcher Mill, has been dismantled and the machinery shipped to a broker in Atlanta, Ga., and mill in Greenville, S. C. The plant has been operated only occasionally since the death of its former owner, the late Senator Shelby S. Fletcher, around a year ago.

The plant normally employed around 200 people. The corporation owns several buildings and some valuable real estate; however, nothing was sold but the machinery.

The story in itself is not of prime importance, since the mill was comparatively small, but this is not the first of such items that have appeared concerning Huntsville, textile mills. Huntsville is strongly unionized, and it might be interesting to textile workers of the South to read the editorial which appeared in the

Huntsville Times a short time ago, and which follows:

A few years ago Huntsville and Madison county were the seat of the textile industry in Alabama. Local mills employed thousands of people.

This was one of the most prosperous areas in the South. There was a splendid balance of manufacturing and agriculture.

The established here so as to be at the source of supply, and to escape the cost of shipment of their raw product consumed thousands of bales of cotton bought on the public square from the farmers of Madison County.

Then the Helen Mill, employing a few hundred, shut down, never to re-open. It has been junked, and its four walls stand as a scarecrow on the city's western border.

Those jobs are gone forever! Later, the Lowe Mill closed. It employed 700 or 800 and had a payroll that supported 3,000 or 4,000 souls. Its machinery has been sold and shipped away, and its walls and roof are now used for cotton storage. It will never reopen.

The relief problem in this community, which has been a steadily growing one, began when the Lowe Mill stopped operation, for there have never been enough jobs in the other mills since that time to give work to all those thrown out of employment.

Those jobs are gone FOREVER! A few months ago, the Fletcher Mill, which provided obs for 200 or 250 people, also shut down.

This meant the loss of meat and bread for perhaps a thousand more people.

This mill is now being dismantled, and the machinery is being sold and shipped away.

Those jobs are gone FOREVER! Whatever the reasons — financial, economic, bad management, or labor (we shall not attempt to assess the blame) — for the closing of Helen, Lowe and Fletcher Mills, the fact is that they are closed and junked.

The important thing is that there are 1,000 less jobs here than there were formerly, that 5,000 people have lost the source of their daily meat and bread, and that it has brought our relief problem to staggering proportions.

Now the Dallas Mill, third largest in this textile area, employing in the past 800 or more, and providing

bread and meat and clothes for 3000 or 4,000 more people, is unable to operate.

Its management gave final discharge recently to all overseers and foremen.

The Dallas Mill is on the eve of liquidation, selling out lock, stock and barrel!

If this takes place, no longer will its whistle, that has been blowing for a half century to summon its employees to their daily jobs, sound its shrill blast each morning!

The mill's investment of more than 2 million dollars is in grave danger of being taken out of this community into which it came first 45 years ago.

Its payroll of over \$500,000 a year will stop FOREVER, unless something is done in the next few weeks to prevent the mill's liquidation.

Hundreds of families — fathers and mothers, boys and girls — who have lived in the Dallas village, and who have worked perhaps 15 years on an average in this mill, will be thrown out in the world, without jobs, and not a chance of getting any!

If this mill is allowed to close those jobs are lost FOREVER!

Not for a week, or a month, or a year, but FOREVER!

The mill will go the route of Helen, Lowe and Fletcher Mills.

Bear that in mind. Have not a doubt about it. It is as certain as that the sun will rise tomorrow morning and set again tomorrow evening.

There won't be any more arguments about hours, or wages or seniority, or this or that. Whatever is of value will be dismantled and sold to the high dollar. Its 240 houses, humble as they are, its Y. M. C. A., its school, its ball park, will be put up to the highest bidder.

There will be left just a big old brick building, empty and bare — a deserted village — and the memory of what was once a happy community!

No longer will the Dallas Mill continue to buy each year thousands of bales of Madison County cotton to process.

No longer will hundreds of families be here to buy the products of the farmers of Madison county.

No longer will there be a Dallas Mill Corporation to pay \$30,000 taxes each year, mostly for the support of our county government.

All the above is not a hysterical picture. It is as true as Holy Writ. It is not overdrawn one iota. It is the bare, naked, inexorable fact!

The minutes and hours and days are tickering away. There are not many left in which this mill can be saved from liquidation!

The situation requires cool heads, clear thinking, sober sense by those whom it involves most directly.

Passion, hatred, prejudice, violent action should be absolutely banned. They have never accomplished or settled anything, and they never offill! They have brought, in all times and ages, only hurt and damage and ever lasting loss.

And the only people who can stop this disaster that is at their door are those who have worked for years in the Dallas Mill!

Are they going to throw away this last opportunity, and avert life-long poverty, hunger and distress for themselves and their families?

Each and every man, woman and child in Dallas village must make an individual decision, and it ought to be made with eyes wide open, and minds clear and free of hatred, passions or suspicion.

It ought to be a decision that in years to come will not be bitterly regretted, and that will not be a source of sorrow and suffering.—Textile Bulletin.

George Wallis, farm superintendent of the Biltmore Dairy Farms in Buncombe county, has planted 70 acres of Sudan grass at the rate of 50 pounds of seed an acre to provide summer grazing.

JOB PRINTING — PHONE 167

## DIXON NEWS

(By Charles E. Stewart)

Mr. John A. Stewart celebrated his 60th birthday last Sunday with a dinner given at his home. A large number of friends and relatives were present.

Mrs. Ethel Page, Mrs. Lizzie Page, Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Page and son of Spartanburg, Mr. and Mrs. Varn Ham bright and children of Huntersville were visitors of Mr. Jom Patterson last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Atkins, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Atkins of Tuzah, S. C. and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hughes, Messrs D. C. Hugres and Ray Hudspeth of Ogden, were visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Hughes, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Dub Eubanks and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sellers were visitors Saturday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sellers.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Baker were visitors of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Hughes Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Parrish of Mt.

Holly, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Clemmer of Charlotte spent Wednesday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Hughes.

Little Ralph Stewart and Ted Farria are sick at this writing.

Mrs. W. G. Hughes, Misses Mary and Victoria Hughes were dinner guests of Mr. Wayne Wells Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Newton Nickols of Catawba, S. C. spent Thursday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Hughes.

Mr. H. K. Stewart who has been

sick for the last several days is much better at this writing.

Messrs Odell Hope and Ross Roberts of Paw Creek were visitors in this Community Saturday.

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Correspondence is invited from groups and individuals everywhere who are interested in the brewing industry and its social responsibilities.

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