STRIKES DON'T BOTHER THE SOUTH

Not As Much As the North and East, at Any Rate—Dixie Begins to Enjoy Results of Campaign to Attract Industries.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

SPECTACULAR strikes of recent months in the North and East, with their accompanying publicity, have largely obscured from the public consciousness the industrial awakening that is taking place in the South. Yet southern industrial leaders feel that labor troubles outside Dixie will soon be reflected in increased southern migrations as industry spreads out to avoid the difficulties rooted in over-concentration.

Fortunately for the South, which in the last 18 months has pressed a determined campaign to attract new manufacturing plants, its comparatively quiet labor conditions have stood out in serene contrast to the hectic scenes which have filled the northern stage.

Department of Labor reports show that the number of workers involved in strikes steadily increased in both the North and South during the last six months of 1936, the latest period for which official records are available. But the totals are heavily against the North, which suffered 894 strikes, involving 372,495 workers, as compared with 105 strikes, involving 29,134 workers in Dixie. The North had its greatest number of strikes in August and September, with 187 in each month, but 163 strikes in October involved the most workers—95,172. The South had 24 strikes in August, keeping 4,563 from employment, but 11,596 were kept out by 16 strikes in October.

South Is Non-Union.

During the six-month period 40 to 60 per cent of all new strikes occurred in four states—New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and California—with Illinois and Michigan accounting for a sizeable portion of the remainder. During the same six months only two important strikes took place in the South—one in the Chevrolet and Fisher bodies plants at Atlanta, and one in the plant of the Celanese Corporation of America at Cumberland, Md. Both were settled amicably.

Scarcity of strikes of either "sit-down" or "walkout" variety in the South is easily explained. The South is relatively non-union. With industry less concentrated than in eastern or middle western regions, it is less susceptible to strike epidemics. Some industrialists deem it probable that public opinion will have outlawed the "sit-down" before the South can be effectively unionized; if "sit-downs" should appear, state and local governments should profit by the experience of their eastern and middle western neighbors in handling them.

Contented workers, these! They are enjoying themselves in a recreation hall built by a large paper manufacturer with plants in several southern cities.

Wages and employment in the South have increased more rapidly than in other sections, while hours have not increased as much, and this undoubtedly has some bearing on the absence of strikes. The wage differential between the South and other sections was approximately 33.5 per cent in 1933; by December, 1936, it had narrowed down to 21.9 per cent. Since the southern worker, according to economists, can maintain the same standard of living as his northern counterpart at 20 per cent less cost, the South may now claim virtual parity as far as real wages are concerned.

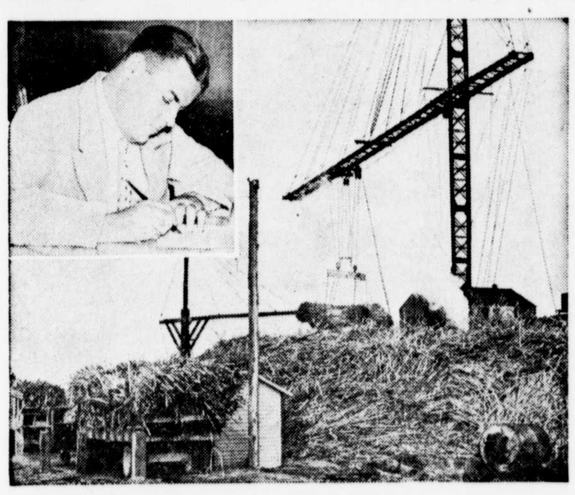
Dixie Woos Industry.

It is not hard to see why industry is attracted by the opportunity the South affords for decentralization. For instance, Detroit and Akron could be paralyzed in their production of automobiles and rubber if a single plant gets into difficulties with a vertical union; it would then be within the power of union leaders to call out workers in all plants in a "sympathy" strike. Sympathy strikes, while still possible under decentralized industry, would be much more difficult to carry out and might end in a workers' revolt.

Southern states are now making it easier than ever before for industries to migrate to points within their borders. The first year of Dixie's industrial promotion drive—1936—brought $322,000,000 in new plants and equipment, the greatest one-year development in history. Leading the pack were paper companies with investments totaling $60,000,000 in new plants; petroleum refining, with $50,000,000 in new distributing plants and pipelines, and iron and steel manufacturers with a $53,000,000 expansion program. During the first quarter of 1937 the pace was maintained, with $92,964,000 in industrial and engineering construction contracts awarded.

Prominent among the reasons for this sudden metamorphosis of a civilization that seemed destined to remain permanently agricultural, has been the extension of hydro-electric power to the most remote regions, resulting in an abundance of cheap energy in places which had been without it owing to lack of coal for generating or lack of distribution lines from hydro-electric plants. In addition, the South provided a ready market, lower construction and maintenance costs, and plentiful raw materials. Of it, Arthur D. Little, the noted industrial engineer, said, "Nowhere is there likely to be a greater extension of industrial activity."

Now the South has "gone out after the business." States have conducted active publicity and "selling" campaigns, making generous offers. These included exemption from taxation for new industries and outright subsidies in the form of free factory sites, free buildings and state-trained labor.



Louisiana is offering manufacturers a new field of industry with recent chemical discoveries of the possibilities of converting sugar cane tops into industrial alcohol. Inset: Gov. Richard W. Leche signing contract to give a container manufacturer ten years tax exemption on addition to plant, to cost $400,000.

Leche Revives Louisiana.

Louisiana was one of those which took the lead, capitalizing on underdeveloped natural resources and on new, man-made ones. It stressed the fact that "nowhere in the world is there a greater opportunity for the development of a chemical industry than Louisiana, where salt, sulphur and gas occur in close proximity." It advertised and "sold" its 4,700 miles of inland waterways, its 14,000-mile highway system, its 10 trunk-line railroads, its large percentage of native American white population. It aggressively promoted its mineral and timber wealths and its great basic crops of rice, cotton and sugar, supplemented by sweet potatoes, strawberries, soybeans and truck vegetables. Its port of New Orleans was touted as the second largest in the United States, with unrivaled facilities.

Political interference with industry in the recent past, coupled with heavy industrial taxes, had prevented much industrial growth in the last decade. But when the new governor, Richard W. Leche, was elected he outlined a plan to revive the state industrially.

The plan, which was adopted, repealed the objectionable license tax on manufacturing establishments; effected a more equitable tax on oil refining; encouraged establishment of a livestock industry by removing the tax on cattle, sheep and hogs; created a board of commerce and industry to court industry; appropriated $100,000 for promotion, and proposed a constitutional amendment giving the governor permission to grant tax exemptions for ten years to new plants and additions to existing plants.

Effects were not long in coming to notice. Building permits soared; so did department store sales, electric power consumption, manufacturing sales, post office receipts, wholesale grocery sales and other indices. Problems of state finance and legislative problems kept Governor Leche from starting his industrial program with the full gusto he would have liked, but his own personal efforts brought into the state 15 new industries ranging in value from $100,000 to $3,000,000, employing 3,000 in their construction and giving permanent employment to nearly 8,000.

Mississippi Follows Lead.

Florida is wooing industry with a tax exemption law and is granting municipalities permission to erect buildings for manufacturers. Cities are vying with each other to attract new factories, although insisting that they must be engaged in light manufacturing, such as garments, small housewares, etc.—no plant which emits objectionable fumes need apply.

Agricultural Mississippi, eager to replace the lumber mills that have left "ghost towns" along the railroads, has adopted a plan to "balance agriculture with industry," which was sponsored by Gov. Hugh White. In addition to tax exemption for five years, it offers free factories and free factory sites which, if the manufacturer maintains a specified payroll for a stated period of years, become his property in most cases. The factories are built by the municipalities in which they are situated, the cities issuing bonds to cover the cost.

Other states are proceeding along the same lines. Alabama offers ten years of freedom from taxes. Maryland's countries may grant permanent tax exemption on manufacturing machinery. Arkansas, with a population 70 per cent rural, has thrown its working cap in the industrial ring with a large fund to advertise the state's natural resources and manufacturing advantages. North Carolina has just appropriated $250,000 to herald its attraction as a field for industrial expansion. Texas is now considering an appropriation of $1,000,000 a year for the next five years to advertise the state's resources.

Southern Markets Grow.

To date efforts have been concentrated upon attracting industries which could process the raw materials of the various regions. Louisiana, with its thousands of acres of rolling pine land, now leads the South in the securing of paper and pulp factories—largely a new southern activity. The textile industry has moved almost en masse to the Carolinas; the South now produces 52 per cent of the nation's textiles, while New England, for more than a century the seat of this industry, now produces only 38 per cent.

As industrial payrolls provide a constant stream of wealth for southern workers, the markets below the Mason and Dixon line are constantly gaining in importance.

Advised opinion of many industrialists and economists is that the North and East, as well as the South, will benefit from the greater prosperity of Dixie, with each section of the country supplying the products it can best produce.

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By-products of the South's cotton fields are providing industry with many new opportunities.

GOOD TASTE TODAY by EMILY POST

World's Foremost Authority on Etiquette

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Clergyman's Reception Needn't Bore Anybody

DEAR Mrs. Post: I am one of the committee in charge of giving a reception for our new clergyman and his wife. It has been suggested by one of the women that we have a musical program first, after which the newcomers will receive and then everyone go downstairs to the large Sunday-school room to have refreshments. I personally think such an arrangement might prove drawn out and awkward but I don't know what better plan to suggest.

Answer: I think the combination of a welcoming reception and a musical program requiring everyone to sit in silence is exactly what you describe as awkward. If I were managing it, I would have the entire reception in the Sunday-school room, which you say is ample, where one or two members on the committee would receive with the clergyman and his wife and introduce parishioners to them. Several stringed instruments playing softly as a background for conversation would be delightful. This arrangement could not prove tiring since after people have spoken to those receiving they would stand around in groups talking to one another and be served with refreshments. As newcomers arrive the first-comers—if they grow tired—would be free to leave.

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Fiancee Dies; What to Do With Ring?

DEAR Mrs. Post: Will you tell me what is the proper thing to do about an engagement ring after a girl was engaged and her fiance died and she becomes engaged to another man? This is exactly what has happened to me and my first fiance's mother is telling everyone what a terrible person I am because I won't return her son's ring to her. I loved him dearly, and the fact that I now love another in no way belittles my love for either one, so far as I can see. They are the principals in two separate phases of my life. Why must I return the only thing my first fiance gave me and which I am sure he would have wished me to keep always?

Answer: If the ring is one he bought for you, it is certainly yours for always. But if the ring was once his mother's—possibly her own engagement ring—if it has any other family history about which she has a real sentiment, then I think you should send it back—but not otherwise.

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Introduce Her Tactfully.

DEAR Mrs. Post: My son has given a ring to his fiancee, although as yet there has been no engagement announced and will not be for several months because her parents are not returning from abroad until then. My husband and I are to celebrate our wedding anniversary soon and would like at this occasion to introduce her to our many friends, but we don't want to in any way "steal the show" from her parents. Can you explain how we can introduce her and yet give no impression of a betrothal?

Answer: There is no reason in the world why she shouldn't be one of the guests, and no reason why she shouldn't be more or less casually introduced to all the people there. But certainly she can not very well receive with you without having it taken for granted that your interest in her is very special.

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When to Stop Eating.

DEAR Mrs. Post: An acquaintance of mine thinks it improper to continue eating while being served with any part of her meal, and every time the waitress approaches, whether it is with water or coffee or no matter what, she stops eating entirely and does not eat again until the waitress has left her place. Isn't this silly?

Answer: You eat exactly the same except when actually helping yourself. As you take your portion from the dish and put it on your plate, you stop chewing for that moment, but this does not mean that your mouth need be empty.

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The Society Pages.

DEAR Mrs. Post: Is it bad form to send the bride's picture to the newspapers for publication with an account of the wedding, if she is not well known in prominent social groups? Are these society pages devoted exclusively to the brides who are daughters of prominent families?

Answer: It is not a question of bad form but of how much interest the society editor feels the account will have to his readers.

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How to Eat Jelly.

DEAR Mrs. Post: Please tell us the proper way to eat jelly or jam?

Answer: A small amount of jelly is put on a piece of meat, already speared with a fork, and eaten. Jelly or jam on bread and butter is spread on the bread with a butter knife and eaten in the fingers.

WNU Service.

Spelling Shakespeare

In the inscription on the black marble statue of Shakespeare in Philadelphia's Parkway library, the playwright's name is spelled "Shakespere" "Shakspere" and "Shakespear."

Caesar's Rubicon.

Italy is waiting, as she has waited for centuries, for some scholar to tell her where Caesar crossed the Rubicon, for three rivers, the Pisciatello, the Fiumicino and the Uso, all claim to be the Rubicon.

AROUND the HOUSE

Items of Interest to the Housewife

Keeping Brassware Bright—Brass ornaments will remain bright longer if, after polishing, they are given a thin coat of white shellac.

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Measuring Sugar—One pound of granulated sugar equals two cups. One pound of powdered or confectioner's sugar equals two and one-half cups.

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Banana Toast—Place sliced banana between two slices bread, spread with shortening. Place in baking pan in hot oven until lightly browned.

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Kidneys and Macaroni—Cut four kidneys in halves, sprinkle with chopped parsley, salt and pepper to taste, and fry. Take one-fourth pound macaroni, break into small pieces, and cook in water, adding a little salt. When quite tender, strain off the water, place macaroni round a dish, and put the kidneys in the center, adding a little gravy. Garnish with two hard-boiled eggs cut into quarters, and four small tomatoes cut into small slices and fried. Serve very hot.

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Don't Scratch the Table—If tiny squares of blanket or astrakhan cloth are stuck under the corners of your hand sewing machine it can be used on any table without fear of scratching it. Similar patches can also be used on clocks, or anything that stands on a polished surface.

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To Prevent Scorching—Leave one small section of a gem pan empty when putting gem batter in pan. Fill this section with water and gems will never scorch.

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Cheese Savoury—Spread seasoned cream cheese on small rounds of previously cooked short pastry. Over the cheese place a round of tomato and a dash of mayonnaise, and top each with a slice of olive. Place in paper containers, sprinkle with finely-grated cheese, and garnish with cress.

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Why Pans Warp—Aluminum cooking pans are frequently warped out of shape by repeatedly putting cold water in them while they are still hot.

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Cooking Sour Fruit—Sour fruit will require much less sugar, and be more digestible, if a dessertspoonful of syrup and a pinch of bicarbonate of soda are added after cooking.

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To Freshen Coconut—Shredded coconut, which has become dry, can be freshened by soaking it in sweet milk a few minutes before using.

WNU Service.

Foreign Words and Phrases

Presto maturo, presto marcio. (It.) Soon ripe, Soon rotten.

Il n'est sauce que d'appetit. (F.) Hunger is the best sauce.

Lis litem generat. (L.) Strife begets strife.

Fide, sed cui vide. (L.) Trust, but see whom.

Resurgam. (L.) I shall rise again.

Contra fortuna no vale arte ninguna. (Sp.) There is no fence against fortune.

E flamma cibum petre. (L.) To get food out of the fire; to get a living by desperate means.

Hominis est errare. (L.) It is common for man to err.

Bacio di bocca spesso cuor non tocca. (It.) A kiss of the mouth often does not touch the heart.

Detur digniori. (L.) Let it be given to the more worthy.

Ask Me Another

A General Quiz

1. How many submarine cables are there in the world?
2. What people were the first to use forks?
3. What states have the most institutions of higher education?
4. How many airplanes are there in the world?
5. Into what body of water does the Chicago river flow?
6. How many varieties of postage stamps are there in the world?

Answers

1. There are more than 3,000 submarine cables in the world with a total length of more than 300,000 miles.
2. According to the National Geographic society the Italians were the first to use forks for eating, and were ridiculed as sissies.
3. Those having the greatest number of colleges and universities, professional schools, teachers' colleges, normal schools, etc., are New York, with 105, and California, with 102.
4. The world today possesses approximately 63,000 airplanes, more than 42,000 of which are military or naval machines, according to Collier's Weekly.
5. The Chicago river originally emptied into Lake Michigan. Now water from the lake is forced through the river into the Illinois river and so into the Mississippi river. Thus it may be said that the Chicago river flows backward.
6. The post offices of the world issue 56,874 varieties of stamps.

Stationary Sun

When we say that the sun has set we use a term which is quite incorrect. The sun does not rise or set, for as far as the earth is concerned it remains stationary. The sun appears in the morning and disappears at night because the earth revolves on its own axis, and this daily revolution exposes us to the sun for that period which we call a day.

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Section of smooth, worn tire which is susceptible to punctures, blowouts and skidding.

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