Life In An Economic Colony

NLY a week or so ago some North Carnlina newspapers were crowing over the fact that a group of Philadelphians had come to Greensboro to borrow a few mad come to Greensboro to borrow a few millions to purchase a radio station. The trend-spotters thought they could detect sydence of financial emancipation here, a relaxing of the hold of Wall Street over the South. There were even a few opti-mists who thought maybe the East had finally become an economic colony of the footh.

The biggest textile deal in history, finally announced this week, knocks that visibility thinking into a cocked hat. J. P. Stevens and Company of New York will shortly assume operating control of 28 manufacturing plants, including some of the biggest in the Carolinas. This is a textle empire worthy of the name-woolen mills in New England, cotton and rayon spinning and weaving plants in the South, finishing plants in both rections yet to come. More than \$10,00,000 is involved in the transaction, \$81,700,000 of it in capital cock, most of which will be exchanged for a new issue of Stevens common.

Southerners of course, will still hold a major interest in the new combine. But control of the vast chain passes to New York and New England, where institutions like J. P. Morgan and Company, which fi-!ike J. P. Morgan and Company, which fi-hanced the merger, can keep an eye on operations. The proud dream of an eco-nomically independent South faded per-ceptibly when details of the merger were announced.

This is not to say that the merger will not be of great benefit to the region. Insofar as it serves to integrate textile production it will increase efficiency. And there is every reason to believe that the new combine will continue to expand, building new plants as well as absorbing existing companies. Certainly it will contribute materially to the increased industrialization a sound Southern economy requires. terially to the increased industrialization a sound Southern economy requires.

But Southerners, from Thomas Jefferson forward, have always had an ingrained fear of bigness—in industry as well as in Government. A corporation the size of the new J. P. Stevens and Company makes us uneasy, and the fact that its nerve center is outside the region increases our appre-hension. We keep thinking of old Pitchfork Ben Tillimar's figure of speech—the sigan-tic cow grazing over the South while her udder hung suspended over Wall Street where the bankers happily drained off the cream.

Nor are these Southern fears entirely unfounded. There has been bitter experience hereabouts with absentee ownership, Capitalists secure in the East, measuring heir success in the figures on their balance sheets, have not always taken into account the human equation in the production of cotion textiles. It hasn't been too many years since the opportunity to exploit cheap labor was as big a factor in establishing cotton mills in the South as the availability of raw materials.

the availability of raw materials.

There have been many changes since old Ben Tillman fixed his one good eye on the United States Senate and launched into his blistering attack on the interests. Perhaps the inhuman qualities he charged to the Wall Streeters have disappeared; at least they are not so readily apparent. Self-interest dictates good labor relations, for the experience of those dark years proved that a sound business cannot be maintained on the basis of exploitation.

Put self-interest here disables the fragre-

maintained on the basis of exploitation. But self-interest also dictates the freezing out of competition. Ultimately, independent Southern cotton processors, whoeverselv affected by this, as well as past and forthorning manufactures of them unpleasant, happen to morintegrated wearing and knitting mills when integrated wearing and knitting mills when integrated a manufactures of the mills of t

Perhaps we are unnecessarily raising old ghosts in the face of progress. We hope so. Certainly we shall be the first to rejoice if the Stevens merger turns out to be an unmixed blessing for the South, even though it stands as evidence that the South is fated to continue indefinitely in its role of economic colony to the nation.

Are Buyers Free To Strike?

THIS wishful talk of a buyer's strike to bring a halt to rising prices is comforting, perhaps, but it is also a measure of the consumer's desperation. It is clear now, or should be that effective Federal now, or should be, that effective Federal control of prices is over and done with Whatever form OPA extension finally takes, when President Truman and Congress reach their compronise, it is too late now to roll prices back without throwing the national economy completely out of gear. Moreover, the Congress has made it clear that it will not accept an administratively possible OPA bill.

It is possible OPA bill.

It is possible that organized groups, which means, of course, labor unions, may inaugurate a sort of buyer's slow-down in certain areas. Even unorganized consumers may be able to force a reduction in the prices of a few commodities, as they appear to have done in the case of butter. But a strike implies a complete essation of buying, a deliberate withdrawal from the market. And effective though this may be ang, a deliberate withdrawal from the market. And, effective though this may be, it is possible only in the case of luxury goods.

Men must eat, men must aleep, men must wear clothes. The more fortunate may cut down on the quantity and quality of the necessities they purchase, but for many millions the cost of a meager living already equals their income. For them rising prices mean increasing poverty and their freedom to join a buyer's strike is the equivalent of their freedom to commit suicide.

There may very well be a cessation of buying if prices continue to climb at their present rate. But this will result from the working of one of those natural laws we

hear so much about, not from a voluntary near so much about, not from a voluntary decision of 130,000,000 buyers to strike against the butcher, the landlord and the haberdasher. We are troubled now with demand that towers above supply: demand may vanish some day when prices make buying impossible for a majority of the citizens.

And, this, of course, will bring prices back into line, probably in a hurry. But it will also bring attendant suffering to business, large and small, for prices cannot collapse without hurting somebody. And it will come only after the standard of living of the majority of Americans has been seriously impaired, after the savings of the war years have been wiped out.

war years have been wiped out.

This is one way to bring the national economy back into balance, apparently the method preferred by our representatives in Washington, and, unless they have completely lost their grip on the public pulse, by a majority of the American people. But it is certainly the hard way to do it, the most expensive method that could possibly have been devised.

There is nothing good about inflation No amount of plous phrase-making can change the hard economic fact that our impatience with Federal controls has alimpatience with Federal controls has al-ready cost us an assured period of genuine prosperity; we threw that away in ex-change for a few quick profits and an eco-nomic future as uncertain as any we have ever faced. We may escape disaster: in all probability we will escape a complete eco-nomic collapse. But we're going to pay plenty before we are through; we'll be for-tunate indeed if we can measure the costs only against what we might have had.

The Docket Is Current At Last

WHEN Mecklenburg Superior Court ad-journed last week there were only 42 eases left on the döcket, most of these so old they will probably never be brought to trial. The docket was in the best shape thas been in in the memory of the oldest Court official; for all practical purposes it was current.

Solicitor Whitener has attacked the stag-gering problems of his new office with en-ergy and genuine ability. He has cut none of the usual corners in disposing of the of the usual corners in disposing of the mass of court business; the nol prosse, the device employed by the late John Carpen-fer in his infrequent efforts to bring the docket up to date, has been used sparingly and always properly. The great backlog of untried cases inherited by the new Solictor has been whittled away by Irial. At his in-sistence there have been more special terms of court in Mecklethour in the packat six months than ever before in history.

The administration of justice down at the Courthouse is still far from perfect. The dubtous practices that frequently make a travesty of justice still go on. But, by and large, Mr. Whitener has done all he said to bring order out of chaos, and has accorded beyond our fondest expectations.

solicitor is due the thanks of the hity for his efforts. Despite the po-litrérences arising over his cam-election to the solicitoratip, it is that he has had the full co-oper-

ation of local attorneys and court officials. He has more than merited their support, and we are confident he will continue to receive it.

Only one like Carmen Miranda, who makes \$201,458 in a year, could afford an old-fashioned boiled dinner for a hat.

Political dopesters see Republican pros-pects much improved, thanks to Gen. Apathy. We had hoped the man on horse-back could be kept out of this.

One hopes the caddie who accidentally kicked Byron Nelson's ball and cost him the title is kept well away from the atomic bomb and custody thereof.

A writer on economics says only half a dozen men in the world understand money. We begin looking tomorrow for one who can fathom butter.

People who saw the Louis-Conn fight by television say even the details were star-tlingly clear. They claim to have seen everything but the make of the challenger's blcycle.



People's Platform

Knocked For A Loop

the war. Addition he does where I work pay more than that.

I sold my car in '42 and I have walked to work every day since. I live a mile and a half from my job. You know Uncle Sam takes 1330 to \$430 out on yap sills perfore I get it, to help pay the soldiers \$2 weeks expire and they have to work for leas? You know everyone had a job to do to win this war. It might not have been fighting, it could have been work. The little place you had to fight for might have been no bigger than your hand, but it's have been been work. The little place you had to fight down to you and me to fight for, it that's the way have to keep it.

There are plenty of jobs, but we have to sweat on them. The "good Boot" says you have to earn your living by the sweat of our face. So there I see not war before you, and return to the same problems that you are facing. They had to make them a place to war before you, and return to the same problems that you are facing. They had to make them a place that you are facing. They had to make them a place that you are facing. They had to make them a place that you are facing. They had to make them a place that you are facing. They had to make them a place that you are facing. They had to make them a place that you are facing. They had to make them a place that you are facing. On you see work work till you. We were in this loggither, let's see it through together. "United we stand, divided we fail."

—EVA GRANT.

Mr. Satisfied Editors, THE NEWS:

GASTONIA

GASTONIA Editors. The News:

[PLEASE give me space enough in your fine paper for an answer on Mr. Dissattafied. It is true what those Senators and Representatives Insisted, that prices without OPA would not be any higher. They are not, with one very distinct exception, namework that the property of th

over the citif, and major of the citif and citif and

like R. es, lets all hope and pany that we may be sparred to the special beginning to the service of cheap politicans at the next elections. Let those who are not dead, Mr. Roosevelt and Sidney Hillman are dead), but such as President Truman, Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace, Senator Barkley, Senator Pepper, and any others of like description hunt themselves not merely a patch of the second beginning to t

-E. R. C. BEST.

CHARLOTTE

Unfit Character

Editors, THE NEWS:

READ in THE NEWS of the 17th of a notice from Spencer. Tenn.: that Dr. James Monroe Smith, former president of Louisiana State University, who was released from the Federal prison at Atlanta last February Sti will return to the teaching profession.

when the property of the parents of

You Pays Your Money CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

Editors, The News:

DECENTIAL 2 a follow was complaining to me about the how high prices had sky rocketed, yet before he and finished, he admitted he had paid side a pound for ham just a few hours before. When will people wake up and realize that they themselve are largely responsible for so high prices? As long as the real team of the prices of the second side of the profiteers are laughing up their side of the second side of

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscently will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed, dichough, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, THE NEWS.

Marquis Childs , _ 199

A Dangerous Drift

DRIFT TOWARD CONTROL

"On the other hand, to seek to regulate the conduct of a great

BEYOND LEGAL BOUNDS On the West Coast, the CI

chartered a union of fishermen who have their own boats and are self-employed. They are reported to have thrown plocks lines around shops buying fish from did not be their control of the self-employed. They would be self-employed the bounds of the control of the self-employed the bounds of self-employed the bounds of self-employed the bounds of self-employed the self-em

Samuel Grafton

Atom Control Fiasco

LOS ANGELES
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Drew Pearson's: Tire Company Got E Award After Fraud

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON THE Mead Committee, which has done such an excellent to do of probing Congressman May and was profiteering the property of the prop

Frond On Army

Fraud On Army

HOWEVER, when General Tire floats were tested by the

Lower of the General Tire employees would deliberately

pump up the floats during the night, thus deceiving Army
inspectors. The floats were required to maintain a certain
pressure—for—24 hours, and when the pressure would go
down, General Tire people would pump them up while

Army inspectors weren't around.

This fraud finally was delicovered, and a report very

critical of General Tire was filed by Army engineers. The Army also secured confessions from about twenty General Tire employees. Despite this discovery of deliberate fraud, General Tire later was awarded the much coveted E, sup-posed to go only to companies performing the highest war

posed to go only to companies performing the highest warservice.

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when the property was the fraud husbed up, butafterward, General The and Rubber Co., was given a luin
nontract at Huntington, W. Va., where Congressman Maysnephew, William H. May, occupied a mysterious but very
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in the case of General The, several army engineers
who knew the real truth about the rubber pointon Soulmendation also was overridden.

Truman's Support Backfires

ATHIMAN 9, SUPPORT BACKHITES

OLD-line Democrate in Jackson County, Mo., are dead
created that President Truman's public endorsement of
mes Artell counted with C. Konas (Clyk Boger C. Slauphter
in the Missouri primary August 6. They are squally cerlain that a Republican will defeat Slauphter in the
election. Albert L. Reeves Jr., Republican son of a Hardingappointed Federal district Judge in Kansse City, at the me-

reprected to win cut next November.

Turnan's old friends back home are really sore. They are he injected the nation's highest office into the dirtiest political right Missouri has had in twenty years, at a time when Democratic leaders were attempting to reserve the more among the congresseman, GOP Ham Esh, and finally accomplished it with Republican and Tom Dewey support. Truman, therefore, felt he had a right to intervene in Kansac City, home politics.

Shortly after Jerome Walsh, former OPA attorney, announced the would oppose Staughter, GIO-PAC of Kansac City and other local labor unions indicated they would support walsh's companion. No public endorsement was more arm than good, sent word back home to dig up another candidate. It was his brother, J. Vivian Turnan, who has a makenow in county politics. Axiel is from rural Jackson County and once served as an assistant county procession. Truman pressured James Pendergast and the powerful Democratic mischine in Kansas City endorred Axtell's can't for events and the ditching of the PAC pleased.