

NEW ENGLAND 'GONE TO DEVIL,' WEEPS NATIVE

Maybe Business Went South, He Opines, 'but Either Way We Lose.'

BY LYLE C. WILSON
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NEW BEDFORD, Mass., Nov. 22.—Abraham Binns told me things were bad.

"Same as they pay farmers for not growin' they ought to pay workers for not workin'," said Binns, a courteous Scotsman who talks down his pipe stem.

Binns is secretary of the New Bedford Weavers' Protective Association, an organization descended from the English Weavers' Protective Associations formed many years ago to oppose the steam power looms.

Gone to Devil—or South
He and his weavers, the cities of New Bedford and Fall River, a large part, in fact, of industrial New England, are up against a more menacing foe than steam power was to the hand loom operatives of the pre-industrial era. The cotton textile business of New England has gone to the devil or gone South.

I was shown a letter to a New Bedford non-textile manufacturer inviting him and his plant to Florence, Ala., "right at Muscle Shoals." It was not an invitation from the government but from city planners who are taking advantage of Muscle Shoals.

The letter offered free factory sites, liberal tax exemptions "and cash bonus payments which will probably more than cover the cost of bringing the plant to this territory." It promised further there was near Muscle Shoals "a fine labor supply that is difficult to agitate."

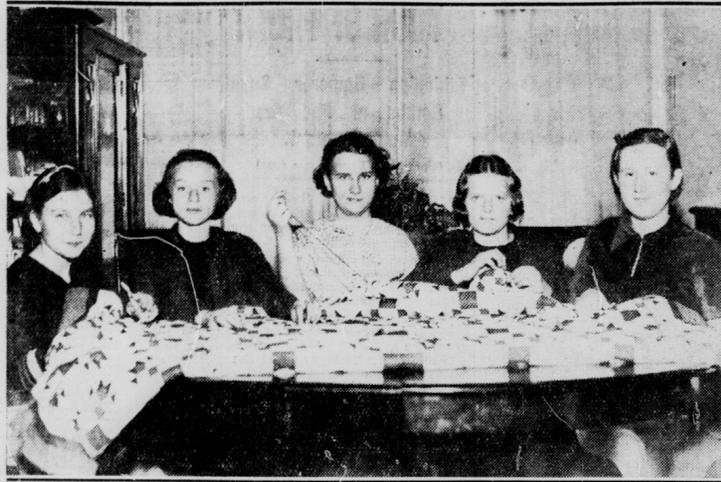
New England All Rolled
Such letters roll New England. You get much the same story in Lowell or Lawrence in northern Massachusetts, although woolen mills in the latter city are reported doing well.

In Manchester, N. H., is the Amoskeag Mfg. largest cotton textile unit of its kind in the world. It is about to be liquidated. It once employed 12,000 persons and if New Hampshire loses that mill there will be no substitute. Yet, mill men complain, the government advises them to find substitute industries and they are unable to do it.

New Bedford used to employ 35,000 mill workers. About 17,000 are jobless or in other employment now. Estimates of the aggregate city unemployed ranged from 10,000 to 20,000. FEERA workers get \$12 a week and the city pays about \$6 to destitute families.

Nothing Being Done
Labor leaders complained nothing was being done for jobless women—a numerous group in any textile town. Works progress has started some sewing projects but fewer than 400 women are engaged so far. The man at the Board of Commerce told me one of the principal troubles was that the United States was on a \$1 shirt basis. New Bed-

SANTA'S HELPERS TO HELP HIM BRING CHRISTMAS TO POOR



Christmas is on the way, and these young girls are helping it along. They call themselves the Friendly Five. They meet in the home of Mrs. Walter Shead, 824 N. Audubon-rd., and are engaged in preparing gifts for the city's poor. Left to right, they are: Betty Jane Madden, who is Mrs. Shead's daughter; Mary Jean Burgess, Rose Mary Yount, Marian Arbuckle and Charlene Sheppard.

ford makes fine goods—material for \$2.50 and \$4 shirt and expensive dress goods.

Give New Bedford a chance at quantity production of quality goods and the sun would shine and there would be less criticism of President Roosevelt.

Have Backs Up
In southern Massachusetts business leaders have their backs up about the Constitution. They feel Mr. Roosevelt is almost flippant in approaching the problem of changing it. There is doubt he will go through with any fundamental constitutional changes. They feel there is room within the Constitution for all necessary reform.

Furthermore, one of the most successful executives in all New England told me the people of these five states wanted less reform and more recovery. They feel Mr. Roosevelt sacrificed recovery to reform.

Mill men complain they are confronted in Washington with "political questions." A man who has been in the Capital on occasion to fight the cause of cotton textiles said Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins and other New Dealers would listen to their pleas and reply:

"Well, isn't it better now than it was? Isn't the New Deal improving conditions?"
"Hell of a Reply"
The man who told me that said he thought "that is a hell of a way to reply" to a presentation of an economic argument. Here are some of the specific complaints of Massachusetts textile mill owners and workers:

1. The government buys its cotton goods from comparatively low-wage Southern mills.
2. The processing tax is ruinous and confiscatory.
3. Japanese competition has de-

stroyed the market for one class of American cotton goods.

4. The mill workers' wage differential placing the Southern minimum \$1 below the Northern weekly wage was a grotesque and unfair incentive to brutal competition.

Differential Part of NRA
The differential was a part of NRA. But the memory of the Southern wage advantage still rankles. Anyway, Northern mill men say they still are paying well above the Southern rates.

Abraham Binns and the mill owners represent the bottom of New England depression. They will not vote for Mr. Roosevelt next year. The dissatisfaction is spreading. The New Bedford bus starter said Federal relief money was being wasted.

"Got 300 men out here digging in a swamp," he explained. Binns and half a dozen labor leaders and weavers preferred the dole to work-relief—but they want more dole. They do not object to New Deal spending, but to the way the money is being spent. The bus starter had another idea.

"Why don't they let the factories work full time and have the government buy the surplus production," he suggested. There isn't much talk of 1936 Republican candidates, although Gov. Alf Landon of Kansas is catching New England's eye with his pay-as-you-go scheme in Kansas.

HOLD BENEFIT DANCE

Frank T. Strayer Post and Auxiliary to Aid Families of Veterans.

Proceeds of a dance and floor show to be given tomorrow night at 210 N. Delaware-st., by the Frank T. Strayer Post and Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, are to be used to care for disabled veterans and their families on Thanksgiving Day.

Burton Breedlove and his Columbia Melodians will provide music. J. R. Stumph is post commander and Laura Foist, auxiliary president.

BIBLE EXHIBIT AT LIBRARY TO OPEN ON DEC. 2

Owners of Old Editions Are Asked to Add Them to Display.

An exhibit of Bibles published before 1800 at the Central Library here

is to feature the Indianapolis observance of the four hundredth anniversary of the first printing of the whole Bible in English.

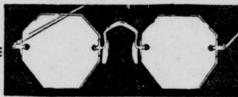
The unusual display is to be on view Dec. 2 to Dec. 15. Miss Helen Brown is to be in charge. Marion County residents who own Bibles published before that time are invited to bring the books to the library on or before Nov. 29. Miss Brown said. She asks that they be wrapped with the name of the owner and any necessary information plainly marked. They will be shown under glass.

City pastors, priests and rabbis are co-operating by urging members of the various religious faiths to lend their Bibles for the exhibit. Miss Brown believes there are

many such old Bibles in this vicinity. She recently received facsimile pages from early English translations of the Bible, including the Coverdale edition of 1535. These

pages were prepared with notes of explanation by the National Commemoration Committee on the Bible and may be seen in the library reference room.

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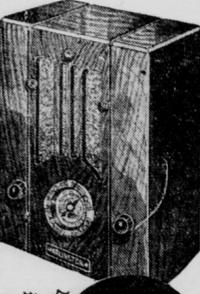


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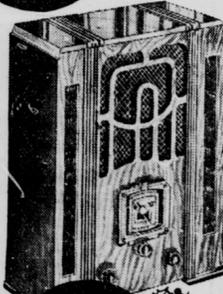
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