

Textile Workers, Organize for the Eight Hour Day, February 3, 1919

ANOTHER UNION SMASHER HAS BEEN RESURRECTED

One, Frederick B. Gordon, President of the Columbus Manufacturing Company, Columbus, Ga., has publicly announced himself through a variety of pamphlets, manufacturers' journals, etc., as the Moses who has come to life for the sole purpose and entrusted with the sacred mission of destroying Trades Unionism in the Southern States.

The first eruption of this apostle of the closed non-union shop is contained in a long, rambling article, full of venom, misrepresentation and falsehood, which he has spread broadcast among textile employers, especially those in the Southern States.

The space in our official journal is too valuable to be taken up by all the un-American, undemocratic, misrepresentations of Mr. Gordon. A few extracts, however, will serve to give you a pretty good idea of this southern Bourbon's calibre and what he proposes to do to the quarter of a million men, women and children textile workers of the South if he can only have his own autocratic way.

Here are a few of his eruptions:

"There has never been anything but native American help employed in these mills (meaning the Southern textile mills), and this textile industry has been free, absolutely free, of the abominable, twin curses of Trades Unionism and Socialism."

Second eruption, including a prophecy:

"At the end of the war the cotton mills of the South will stand absolutely for their full legal right to operate that industry on the non-union basis—closed non-union, if that will make it any stronger. Closed hermetically, climatically, sectionally, or any way you want it. Not only that, if necessary, a clarion call will go out and the 1,070 textile plants of the South would form a unit, which in no uncertain terms would notify Messrs. Gompers and Golden & Co. that they had better seek greener pastures as they would simply be wasting their 'organization' money in this part of the country."

Third and final eruption, also accompanied by a prophecy:

"And this is my prophecy: That the industrial South as a whole will never, while the country remains a republic, allow itself to be bound hand and foot, and virtually gagged politically, as is the industrial North today, by that 'THING' that seeks to stab in the heart that inherent right of selective employment belonging to every individual firm or corporation in this country—that unholy, foreign-born, un-American, Socialistic, despotic THING, known as LABOR UNIONISM." End of eruptions.

I have been connected with the Trade Union Movement for over 40 years. During this long period I have met men of all shades of character representing the employing class. I have read the utterances of many others, but never in my long experience have I ever met with anything that compares with these vitriolic, unfair and un-American utterances of this particular employer, and I am wondering

whether I should waste any time in making any further reference to him, other than to submit them just as they are in their hideous nakedness, to the judgment of all fair-minded American people.

In Mr. Gordon's first eruption he displays an ignorance that will make even his best friends smile, when he couples Trades Unionism with Socialism. His muddled brain doesn't seem able to grasp the fact that Trades Unionism is economic and Socialism political.

It is hard to believe that a statement of this kind could emanate from any man holding a position such as Mr. Gordon holds, as president of a mill corporation. And let me say to Mr. Gordon and to every other textile mill president, either North or South, who cares to ally themselves with this unprincipled, unjust Union hater, that Messrs Gompers and Golden & Co. have no intention of seeking greener pastures for organization than obtains in the Southern States. There is no part of this great country where organization is more badly needed than among the textile workers of the South. The longest hours of labor, the lowest standard of wages, and the lowest standard of working conditions exist down there among the textile workers. The curse of child labor is more pronounced in the Southern textile mills than in any other part of the country, and no one realizes that more forcibly than those who are living in luxury and maintaining their families in idleness and luxury upon the fat salaries they are drawing and the abnormal dividends they extracted from the long hours of toil and the life's blood and energy of the tired men, the overworked women and the little children employed in the textile mills of the South.

The United Textile Workers of America are in the South to stay. They are in Columbus, Ga., to stay, Mr. Gordon and his henchmen notwithstanding. The United Textile Workers of America backed by the American Federation of Labor, are going to bring shorter hours, better working conditions and a higher standard of wages to all the textile workers of the South and to the textile workers in every other part of the country. Mr. Gordon or any of his kind may assail and attack Trades Unionism as brutally and as cowardly as they may see fit, but when Mr. Gordon is laid away in his grave and has left behind him only a memory as a union smasher, the American Federation of Labor and the United Textile Workers of America will be carrying on the work of lessening the burdens of the toiling masses, securing for them their equitable share of the wealth they create, protecting and safeguarding the lives and the welfare of the men and women in industry, exterminating the curse of child labor to the end that those who are to be the future fathers and mothers of our nation, shall be better equipped both physically and mentally to maintain the industrial and moral standards and uphold the glorious tradition of our great republic, that's what industrial democracy means.

JOHN GOLDEN, International President.

For information how to organize write to Headquarters, UNITED TEXTILE WORKERS OF AMERICA, 86 Bible House, New York, N. Y.

