

CLINTON CLOTHMAKER LYDIA

VOL. 2, NO. 7

PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES OF CLINTON-LYDIA MILLS, CLINTON, S. C.

AUGUST 15, 1953

Belgian Textile Man Impressed By Both Plants

Alphonse de Smeldt, textile manufacturer from Ghent, Belgium, visited Clinton and Lydia Cotton Mills late last month and was taken on a complete inspection tour of both mills.

Mr. Smeldt operates a cotton mill in Ghent which produces quality shirt materials and similar fabrics. He stated that shortly after he arrived in New York for a three weeks stay in this country that he learned of the reputation for quality materials that Clinton and Lydia Cotton Mills have. It was for this reason that he wanted to see our operations here and how they compare with his in Belgium.

"Now that I have been through your mills and have seen the wonderful machinery and the fine people working in all departments, it is easy for me to see why you have such an excellent reputation for high quality cloth," Mr. Smeldt said. "Although we do the same thing in our plant in Belgium—spin and weave—it would be most difficult to compare it with yours."

Mr. Smeldt said he was most impressed with the spirit of cooperation shown at Clinton and Lydia and other American mills. "You folks," he said, "both within your own mills and between other mills, work together for the common good. You exchange ideas and welcome each other into your mills, and welcome

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PALMETTO BASEBALL LEAGUE Vice-President Robertson is shown above awarding the League Championship Trophy to Will Hampton, Manager of the Clinton-Lydia Cavaliers as League Secretary Wayne Burdette looks on. Some of the members of the winning team are shown in the background.

Cavaliers Receive Palmetto League Championship Cup

Clinton-Lydia's Cavaliers received another gold trophy late last month as they topped the Palmetto Baseball League for the 1953 season by winning 19 and losing only two games.

In the first half of the play-offs, the Cavaliers beat Watts Mill the first three games of a three out five playoff and as we went to press, had won one and lost one in the second half of the playoffs with Fork Shoals.

The trophy was awarded at the first game of the play-offs by League Vice-President Robertson.

Leslie Sharpe, Calvin Cooper and Ed Knight were the strong pitching element of this year's Cavaliers. Other players included Charley Gaffney on first, Truman Owens at second, Red McGee on third, Tot Fallow at short-stop, Herb Fallow in right field, Sam Owens in center and E. C. Huffstetler in left field. Ralph Rogers was the catcher and Fred Satterfield, utility, Wallace Patterson was scorekeeper.

Will "Bad Eye" Hampton capably directed the team throughout the season.

Top hitters were Ralph Roberts with a season average of .487; Red McGee with a .392 and Tot Fallow, .365. Ten of the 12 players hit over .300.

Ralph Roberts led in home runs, knocking out six circuit clouts during the season.

Latest Scientific Developments And Constant Checking Of Each Bale Of Cotton Assures Finest Raw Materials

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Most of us here in South Carolina live and work around cotton and pretty much take it for granted, never full well realizing that the little minute, insignificant cotton fibre, which can hardly be seen with the naked eye, is such a tremendous influence and force in the daily running of our mills and ultimate quality. Cotton is grown extensively in South Carolina and we see it growing prolificly in fields and outwardly it all looks alike to the average worker

and non-technician, except maybe for a slight tinge or off color or one bale may look trashier than another.

Therefore, to the average person, the buying of the cotton for a mill would appear to be a relatively simple task. We here at Clinton-Lydia are aware that we use 45,000 bales of cotton yearly or almost 1,000 bales weekly, so, to the most of us it seems simple to just buy 45,000 bales of cotton to be shipped in periodically throughout the year.

This casual acceptance of the cotton we run and the fact that cotton is cotton, because it all looks alike, is as far from the truth as one could ever hope to digress! There is an axiom among mill men that quality starts in the opening room and this is very well phrased, as cotton has many different properties and characteristics. Not only do we have to very carefully mix and blend cottons in our opening rooms, but, we have to have some control over the purchasing of the best fibre properties suited to our types of manufacture, such as length and uniformity of staple, strength of the fibre, the fineness of the fibre, the trash and leaf content of the cotton, etc.

It would be interesting to see just how our mills go about procuring 45,000 bales of the right type of cotton to operate our two mills during

a year. This phase of the business is of such importance that it is conducted personally by our President, P. S. Bailey. The cotton used by Clinton-Lydia Mills is all bought out of the Memphis Territory, comprising the rich Delta growing states, and also from the Rio Grande Valley.

Preliminary research is carried on to help Mr. Bailey with his selection of "points" in which he will concentrate his purchasing. These "points" are growth areas and the party responsible for buying the cotton must know

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A BELGIAN TEXTILE MANUFACTURER, Alphonse de Smeldt, visited Clinton-Lydia Mills late last month and was lavish in his praise of the mills, the people who work here, and the villages. Clinton Superintendent George Huguley here shows him one of our yarn packages.



FOURTH OF JULY ACTIVITIES at Clinton-Lydia Mills included practically every kind of contest known, including even the inevitable beauty contest for youngsters. This group shows some of the contestants in the Lydia bathing beauty contest.