

ROBERTS SAYS LOSS IS HEAVY

Impending Strike Caused Business To Be Lost To Alabama Mills

ANNISTON, July 17.—Scott Roberts, president of the Alabama Cotton Manufacturing Association, today issued a statement in which he said there is a likelihood of all Alabama mills being closed until the strike is withdrawn because of the effect that strikes and talk of strikes has on business of the mills. "With reduced sales and mounting investments in materials, labor and processing tax, the burden is about more than mills can stand," he said.

Mr. Roberts said that it was rumored that strike agitators or organizers were backed by New England manufacturers which was transferred to the South in recent years.

Anniston's delegation to the strike conference in Birmingham Sunday was opposed to a strike, it was learned authoritatively by The Anniston Star. Delegates to the convention were selected at a mass meeting at Zinn Park Saturday afternoon at which time John Dean and Albert Cox, textile union representatives were speakers. The speakers were quoted as saying that Harry Hopkins, relief administrator, had promised relief to strikers.

Roberts' Statement

President Roberts' statement in full shows:

"One of the mills in Alabama has complained to this office that the agitators or organizers of the present strike are reported to be claiming that Federal Relief Administrator Hopkins has promised textile labor Federal relief in the event of a strike.

"This mill has pointed out that such a promise is in direct conflict with the statement of General Hugh Johnson of June 3, from which he quotes as follows:

"'While NRA is willing to do anything it can to compose differences as they arise, it cannot proceed to any action under the threat of a strike against its own order. Accordingly, the first article of settlement countermands the strike order.'

"It is obvious that the mills in Alabama cannot hope to secure

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their share of the limited demand for goods under threat of strike.

Take Away Business

"This loss would accrue, to the benefit of the industry in other states and some of the loss would be permanent. The labor in the textile industry in Alabama can see the mounting stocks of goods in the mills with their own eyes.

Textile labor has participated in the recovery of the New Deal to a far greater extent than any other group. The hope of the industry to maintain present wages and hours depends largely upon the same relative degree of improvement. It has been freely charged that New England manufacturers are encouraging this agitation in the South to cripple Southern industry and reap the benefits themselves."
