

H. R. FITZGERALD, TEXTILE MAN, DEAD

**President of Riverside and Dan
River Cotton Mills Succumbs
to Heart Disease at 57.**

MILL INVOLVED IN STRIKE

**Physician Ascribes Death to Worry
Over Protracted Struggle—Au-
thor of Arbitration Plan.**

Special to The New York Times.

DANVILLE, Va., Feb. 24 (Tuesday).—Harrison R. Fitzgerald, president of the Riverside and Dan River Cotton Mills, died suddenly at 1 o'clock this morning after he had suffered two attacks of heart disease in the night. His physician, Dr. Julius M. Robinson, who had been attending him for a week, declared that worry over the recent textile strike which lasted for four months had speeded the death of Mr. Fitzgerald. The textile leader had been under a great strain for the last year, Dr. Robinson said.

One of the leading textile figures in the South, Harrison Robertson Fitzgerald started in the industry at 17 and rose from the ranks. He began as a clerk and in the ensuing years filled almost every position until he became president of the Dan River Mills. At the time of his death he was a director of two flour mills, the First National Bank of Danville, the Cotton Textile Institute and the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association. He was one of the organizers of the Cotton Textile Institute. He was also prominent in the South as a Rotary leader and an active worker in the Methodist Church.

Mr. Fitzgerald was widely known for his pioneer efforts in behalf of better relations between employers and employes and was the originator of an "industrial democracy" plan, which was designed to function like the Congress. It provided for a lower house, consisting of representatives of the employes and a senate made up of superintendents, foremen and overseers. In furthering this policy he built a large girls' dormitory at his mills and also a Y. M. C. A. with a staff of physicians.

His accomplishments along this line brought many visitors from foreign countries to view his plant, and at the height of his career he introduced a special bonus plan for his workers. Things went well at the mill until the great slump in the cotton industry came about three years ago. The bonuses dwindled to almost nothing and finally in January of last year he was forced to announce a decrease in wages.

After this move dissatisfaction began to grow among the employes and efforts toward unionizing the works were set on foot. Mass picketing and several dynamitings resulted, and Communist sympathizers looked toward Danville as a field for activity. The strike finally came and for four months the industry in Danville and Schoolfield was completely paralyzed. It was not until Jan. 30 of this year that the workers returned to their posts.

Mr. Fitzgerald is survived by his widow and four daughters. They are Mrs. Russell Gant, Mrs. Lucy Fuller and the Misses Ida and Harriet Fitzgerald.

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