

DuPonts, Merchants of Death, Lords of Delaware; One of 3 Top Families Holding U. S. by the Throat

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WILMINGTON, Del., Oct. 5.—When Pierre Samuel duPont wrote to a friend in 1797 from Paris that he wanted to settle in America he told the friend "he would find a veritable state of his own—Pontiana would be an ideal name—a vast development upon which he would build houses, schools, roads and waterways, lay out great farms and cultivate all manners of crops, perhaps even start manufactories."

And Pontiana is an ideal name for the State of Delaware where the duPonts did settle and which they now own lock, stock and barrel. You've read in the pages of this paper in the last week of the duPont international affiliations; of their supply through their General Motors

of the weapons of war to both the Nazis and the British imperialists.

You've read how neither an American, British or German, boy can shoot a bullet but that duPont gets a dividend. Also you've seen duPont named by the Securities and Exchange Commission as one of the three families who, through their hold on industry, control the economic and political life of the United States.

Now we want to tell you the story of duPont in his own backyard.

THE ROGUES GALLERY

In getting this story, we visited in the neighborhood of duPont plants in and around Deepwater, New Jersey. We spoke to many duPont workers from Pennsylvania to Penns Grove on the strip of New Jersey across the Delaware River which faces Wilmington. We spoke to leading politicians in Wilmington and we spoke to duPont's director of public relations, an interesting gentleman who was Herbert Hoover's private secretary, Mr. T. J. Joslin.

The political set-up here is in the bag for the freres duPont.

It starts right in Wilmington proper and runs from one end of Delaware to the other and extends more than a little to the capital of our country.

Walter W. Bacon, mayor of Wilmington and probably the next governor of the state, is a former General Motors man who was, among other things, treasurer for the Buick Corporation. He has a vile labor record. At the time of the great sit-downs in auto he said then that if he were the person in charge of Michigan he would drive the workers back into their plants with the bayonets of the Michigan National Guard.

A duPont worker who gave us this incident said, "And don't forget, that's the duPont labor policy, he'd do it here too."

The state apparatus looks like this: Josiah Marvel is nominal and titular head of the Democratic Party in Delaware; James R. Morford holds the same office in the G.O.P. They are law partners in the firm of Marvel, Morford, Ward and Logan, thus anticipating by some years the present fused identity of interests of the Democratic and Republican Parties nationally.

It is also of interest that the Logan of the firm name is Arthur G. Logan, noted strikebreaker and front for Delaware Employers, Inc., the union-busting agency formed after the teamsters' general strike in 1937. More about this gent later.

Therefore those in control of the state need not whisper twice into the ears of the political gentlemen who do their bidding, they need whisper only once.

The Chamber of Commerce is not forgotten by the duPonts. Here Gerrish Gassaway, the

Chamber of Commerce Manager lobbies in Washington for the duPonts.

They tell this story of the way Gerrish works in Washington. It was during the fight on the Wage and Hours Bill, Gerrish was very upset, it looked as if the people would have a victory. It looked as if the measure would pass. Gerrish rushed to a phone and called Lammont. He said it looked as though it couldn't be blocked. And then in his typical prophetic manner Lammont duPont is supposed to have said, "Never mind, the minimum has a way of becoming the maximum, you know."

Well, let's say you want to bring any of the facts about the duPonts that have made the headlines in this paper to the people and the workers of Delaware... forget the thought! You can't get it into any of the local papers.

THE "FREE" PRESS

For Wilmington has the state's only two dailies—The Journal-Every Evening and the Wilmington Morning News. These are owned by the Christiana Securities Corporation, a private holding company whose stock would have been a good buy two months ago when quoted at \$2,500 a share. Today it is quoted at \$2,760 bid and \$2,860 asked. Principal stockholders are Pierre Samuel, Irene and Lammont duPont (the three most active in the duPont business), the Raskobs, Walter Carpenter (now president of E. I. duPont de Nemours and Co.) and R. E. M. Carpenter.

Both these newspapers use all three news services: the International News Service, The Associated Press and the United Press.

If this were not enough to block any potential competition and allow them to print what they please, Delaware's Sunday paper, the State, although not owned by the duPonts, is effectively controlled by them through the fact that the State is head-over-heels in debt to the local banks.

The local banks... ah, there's a juicy plum. They run to three: the Wilmington Trust, the Equitable Trust, the Delaware Trust.

Pierre Samuel duPont is honorary director of the Wilmington Trust; C. Douglass Buck, son-in-law of the late T. Coleman duPont is president of the Equitable Trust and William duPont Jr. is president of the Delaware Trust, a creation of the late A. I. duPont.

Thus not only does duPont control the news in this state but they can also control the advertising of those who patronize their papers. For they can, through their banks, control credit to potential advertisers. They can control credit to any business that operates through their banks by



LAMMONT DU PONT

merely denying them money when they need it.

The Christiana Securities Corporation is the keystone of their arch. It controls roughly about 40 per cent of the duPont Company stock, and this in turn means control in the richest United States Corporations, General Motors, Eastern Air, TWA and a host of other and subsidiaries, as well as cross-licensing and interchange of stock agreements with large Nazi and British chemical and munitions plants.

Both Atlas and Hercules powder companies, nominally separated from the duPont company after the last war, are controlled by interlocking directorates. Remington Arms is also nominally separate, but you can judge its affiliations yourself from the fact that it uses such duPont facilities as its publicity and technical staff.

DuPont control of the whole works dates from the last war, when the companies under that name earned as much in four years as it would have taken their 256 years to earn at their normal rate of profit.

On this we had an interesting conversation with Mr. Joslin, duPont's publicity man. We had just spoken to men who had worked for duPont, who are, at the age of forty, worn out from work in the lead plants where his paints and other chemical products are produced.

This man of forty should have been in his prime. But he wasn't. He was ill and broken.

Our point to Joslin came after his insistence that this paper wouldn't print the truth about the duPont contribution to the country if he gave it to us.

"Would you say," he asked us, "that duPont had contributed something to American life?"

"We would say," we told him, "that the workers of duPont had made many things easier for life through chemistry. And that they made the contribution, not duPont."

Needless to say we didn't stay with Mr. Joslin long. For we couldn't get the picture from our minds of the cheap clapboard

houses duPont employes live in, the wages they get and the few years they last at their work. Also the thought of T.N.T. piled carelessly in plants, the speed-up for enormous profit which sucked the life from the workers in so many explosions since the first on the Brandywine in 1807.

Another example in the many we have culled from conversations will illustrate another way the vast fortune of duPont aids them in control of the political life in their "Pontiana."

Once in a while a political group becomes recalcitrant. It may be the Republican Party or the Democratic Party. But it's always some local squabble and soon a whisper runs around the corner and all opposition is silenced.

Some time ago the duPonts were getting a little annoyed; the story goes, at the Democratic Party vote in Sussex County. The vote there in the farm section was largest and in a little town called Seaford, voted for the Democratic Party.

Now, farming is on the downgrade in Delaware. Despite the fact that it is the home of thousands of corporations who file in Delaware because the state has no annual tax on them, and despite the several great DuPont estates within Delaware, farming is in a bad way here.

In 1935 there were 10,381 farms in the state; by 1940 this had dropped to 9,078. In other words, 1,303 farmers lost their farms in five years.

LABOR IN ACTION

The whipping post is used in only two states in the United States today. Both of them are down here, in Delaware and Maryland. Delaware, only a short distance from Philadelphia is across the Mason-Dixon line; it is the south and Jim-Crow controls its theatre and restaurants. It has Negro schools; even its law governing slavery was never repealed until 1901. Negroes convicted of petty crimes are invariably sent to the whipping post.

In all this the working class is not asleep and since last May the CIO has made tremendous strides in Delaware. There are now thirteen CIO local unions with a membership of around 3,000 workers and organizational

work going on in five additional plants. The workers of Delaware realize the necessity of being protected by a union and all want organization.

There is a strong union in the leather industry, which is the largest and, at the same time, most exploited industry in Wilmington.

A union contract is in force at the Pusey and Jones shipyard and last week the United Rubber workers signed a very good contract with the Delaware Floor Products Company. These elections have been held by the Labor Board in the last three months and they have resulted in 484 votes for the C. I. O. 75 votes for a company union, one plant, and 61 votes for a union.

At the present time the CIO is staging an intensive organization drive in the Pyrites Plant and the Eastern Malleable Iron Company. While all this activity is going on in the shops among the workers, you can see a pattern of stiff employer resistance to unionization. The speechhead of the anti-union labor-hating campaign is the Delaware Employers, Inc. under the guidance of Arthur Logan. The Association is a combination of employers who have banded together to keep the principle of the open shop intact in the State of Delaware. They pay dues on the basis of so much per head for each of their employes. In return they get all the anti-union advice they want.

Whenever a union is having trouble negotiating a contract, you can bet that Arthur Logan is in the background. The Employers Inc. also maintains a well-concealed black-list of militants.

That's the picture down here, here. One thing more, standing in front of the lowering duPont building which throws its shadow over the city, county and federal buildings which face it is a statue to Caesar Rodney, who rode you recall, from Dover to Philadelphia to add his signature to the Declaration of Independence.

The workers look at the duPont buildings and at Rodney's statue and then they go out and carry on Rodney's work, by organizing to break the feudal domain of the "Grand Duchy," duPont's Pontiana.