Experience -- And the South

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CAN the race profit by experience? This question is raised anew by the industrialism coming to the South. Industrialism brought to England problems that were muddled with disastrous consequences; the record is there for all to read. In the northeastern section of the United States, also, industrialism presented something of the same problems—and was attended by the same serious consequences.

In old England and in New England it was inevitable that the new problems should be seen in terms of old ideas and old arrangements. Only gradually was it discovered that the machine technique was unlike the craft technique, and that corporate business was unlike petty trade.

Little by little a belated accommodation was made to new industrial facts, but the South starts out with the great advantage of a knowledge of what is likely to happen in the wake of a developing and uncontrolled industrialism. The hazards in child labor, in industrial accidents and in unemployment, are well recognized. The devices of protective legislation and of accident compensation have already been contrived. It is understood that the protection of labor is not an imposition upon employers, but an effort in the direction of establishing a plan upon which all may compete.

The real question, then, is whether a new and revolutionary technique is to take its ruthless course in the South as it has done elsewhere—or whether an instrument which makes for increased production can be controlled to the uses of men.

A Significant Appointment

ONE of the first tests of President Hoover's grasp of administrative problems will be his appointment of a member of the United States Employees' Compensation Commission to take office March 12. This commission administers the three federal workmen's compensation laws in which the American Association for Labor Legislation has been particularly interested. The work calls for intimate understanding of the modern principle of compensation law and administration and full appreciation that there must be retained in the hands of the deputy commissioners doing the actual day by day work of making awards for specific disabilities, sufficient administrative power and dignity to attract and hold men of character and ability.