

SN 1

MRS. SARAH NATIONS, sworn, testified:

EXAMINED BY MR. DALY.

Q Where do you live?

A At the camp.

A How long have you lived at the camp?

A I have lived at the camp since September.

Q Where did you live prior to that time?

A On South Boulevard.

Q In one of Mr. Elsas' houses?

A Yes Sir.

Q What were you doing before you moved to the camp?

A Working in the mill until they put me out.

Q Were you one of the strikers that went out?

A No Sir, I did not go out. I was in there when they struck but I came out after the strike.

Q When did you quit?

A I worked a week and three days after the strike.

Q Why did you quit?

A I quit on the ground of the way they were treating all of us. We could not make a living.

Q How long had you worked in the mill?

A I had worked in the mill seven years.

Q Did your husband work in the mill?

A A little, not much.

Q Did your children work in the mill?

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A My daughter, Lina McFarland, worked there.

Q How long did she work in the mill?

A Since she was seven years old. She is now seventeen.

Q Does she work there yet or is she in the camp?

A She is at the camp.

Q How much money would you draw in the mill?

A Spooling. I was spool hand and tangled-yarn hand.

Q Did you work by the piece or by the day?

A By the piece.

Q How many hours a day did you work?

A We went in at 6:15 in the morning and we quit at 6:00 at night and was allowed forty five minutes for lunch, from the first to the last.

Q How much money would you draw on Saturday?

A Well, \$4.00 to \$5.00, sometimes less. The most I ever drew was \$7.10.

Q What was the least you ever drew?

A I could not tell you, it was so little.

Q Less than \$5.00?

A Yes Sir.

Q Less than \$4.00?

A When I worked extra time I drew from \$4.00 to \$5.00.

Q What do you mean by extra time?

A Every day in the week.

Q What did your daughter draw?

A Before the strike she drew from \$7.00 to \$8.00

or \$9.00 a week.

Q Was she a spinner?

A She was a spooler, and after the strike was pulled off she never did draw over \$4.50 and they put some extra work on her.

Q Why did they?

A I don't know why it was unless it was on account of the dinners and lunches that came ut.

Q Do you know they deducted lunches and dinners?

A They did not say so on the ticket, but it looked that way.

Q Do you know the highest amount that your daughter ever drew?

A \$9.00.

Q What was the lowest amount per week?

A I think \$2.50 was the amount the week she quit. She drew \$2.00 and \$2.40 in her ticket, and then after her week's notice she drew \$2.60, made even \$5.00 she drew for two weeks work.

Q Did you or your daughter ever lose any money on account of forfeitures of time under the contract?

A She did.

Q Do you know how much?

A She had a week and three days she lost. We could not tell exactly how much it was because she was a spinner

and a hand never knows what they going to make until they draw the ticket because that is a secret of theirs we don't understand.

Q You have lived at the camp since the first of September?

A Yes Sir.

Q Have you any idea how many were there then?

A At the first there wasn't so many.

Q Was there a hundred?

A There was a hundred when I first went there. I moved on Tuesday when the first ones moved, during the first week.

Q How many are there now?

A About 150.

Q Counting families, men, women and children?

A Yes Sir.

Q How do you live at the camp? Do you all eat together?

A Yes Sir.

Q How many women were in your department?

A 23 or 25 worked in the spooling department where I worked.

Q Were you treated well by your employers while you were at work?

A Not what you would call well. Not in the way of

being respected as a woman ought to be.

Q What do you mean by that?

A Well, in case I wanted off or any of my children wanted off or I personally wanted off and was sick myself, I went in and asked off. We had to go in on time or our time would be held up on us. We had to draw our time on Saturday; if we stayed out our time was held up. If we stayed out two days in a week we lost one. If we stayed out two days in the week we did not get our money until Monday night and they would ask what was the matter when I would ask off. I told them I was sick. They asked, "How often are you women sick?" in an insulting way.

Q Let me ask about that. As I understand you, if you were sick you went to the office?

A No Sir, we went in the mill, went to the boss spinner.

Q And asked for a day off, he would let you off, would he?

A No Sir, hardly ever. I stayed in there when I was not able to be in there, when I just could not work. Just had to go and sit down.

Q After you were let off?

A Yes Sir, if he had plenty of help he would let me off.

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Q Then you could draw your money on the following Saturday, couldn't you, whether you had worked five days or not?

A No, Sir.

Q Can you cite any instances of improper treatment in the room?

A Well, I had insults offered to me.

Q In what way?

A By the man that runs the room, Mr. Smith. He has come to me and asked me to go out with him out in the tower. He offered me money if I would go. I would ask off. He would tell me he would let me off if I would go out in tower and let him go with me.

Q What would he offer you?

A \$5.00 at one time and he said, "There is some men working out there, but when we get there it will be alright." After awhile he came back to me and says, "I am going on out, you come on out in five or ten minutes, everything is sugar." I says, "I am a married woman. I am poor, but I don't want to cause no trouble and I don't want to go." I tried to get out of it the easiest way I could. I did not want to lose my job.. So he went on and I did not go and after awhile he came back in and says to me, "Why didn't you come out there?" I says, "I cannot go. I have got a adul.. I don't want

to go. I want to make my living honest and if the superintendent were to come out here and see me I would lose my job and you yours and not only my job but my character, and I have children I live for. I could not afford to do it, honestly."

Q After you talked to him that way did he still insist on your going out with him?

A No, he said it might be for the best.

Q You never went out with him?

A No Sir, I never did.

Q Do you think that went on very much in your department?

A From all reports it did, but I am just telling personally what I know myself.

Q You have no knowledge of any particular case?

A No Sir, I have heard of it, but I could not swear to that I didn't see with my own eyes. I just know what I have been told; but as for my knowing I had rather not state.

Q Did you live in one of the company houses when you went on strike?

A Yes Sir.

Q Why did you move then?

A They throwed me out. I was out sick, and we have

a doctor out there, a yard policeman and doctor, a special officer they call him, and he seed and knowed I was sick and knowed I was not able to work; I also had Dr. Green to wait on me when I was out two weeks. Mr. Florence sent for me to come in the office Friday evening.

Q Who is Mr. Florence?

A The general pay master.

Q The pay master?

A Yes Sir, the pay master. He sent for me. I come out and he says, "Do you want to see me?" I says, "Yes Sir." He says, "What do you want? Some information has come in, we don't never want any information but these reports come to the office and I never have found any fault against you in any way and never have heard anything against you and I think if I were to go to you I believe you would tell me the truth." I says, "I most certainly will, Mr. Florence. I will tell you the truth about anything you want." He says, "Reports have come to me that your daughter has joined the Union and yet expecting to live in the house and belong to the Union." I says, "There is nothing to it. In fact we don't intend to, but we have the confidence of the people, the Union men and women, that is straight, but Lina intends to marry and I want to work. My husband works out but I will make him support me and I will sit down.

I had it out with him and he said, "That is alright." I says, "You take my back time and we will get out of the house until I come back and work a notice. When I get ready to quit I will work a straight notice and come back and get my time." He says, "It will meet the rent." I says, "I don't think I will disgrace myself by joining the Union." On Saturday Lina drewed 50¢ on a week's notice and as soon as she come home and I come on back I showed Dr. Hawkins the ticket. I says, "Lina never drawed this little before. \$2.40 a week forces her to go out on the street. I never joined the Union, but I will. If I can assist them by joining I will do it now. I don't intent she shall work for any such pay." I went on back down there and went to the mill and Mr. Smith told her to make out her forfeit time and hand it in the mill.

Q Who is Mr. Smith?

A The boss spinner. And I says, "How come my time forfeited?" He says, "You think you can fool some of them, but you can't fool me. You put your girl on the street and you get your groceries out of the commissary." I says, "I don't. If you want to know where I get my groceries you go to 514 Decatur Street and ask. My time is not forfeited. I have been out sick." He says, "If

you and Mr. Florence can make it all right it is all right with me." And I went and told Mr. Florence, and he gave me my money, \$2.60.

Q Did you lose any money by forfeit?

A I left my \$5.50 with the mill before I got mine here at court. I entered suit here with the rest of them and I got mine. I got some statement in the Court House, I am telling you now.

Q That must have been a case that did not come under the contract then?

A I asked Mr. Florence when I got home about my statement and it was correct and they appealed for a new trial but the Court overruled them.

Q Were you put out of your house?

A Yes Sir, they come down there on Wednesday about 4 o'clock.

Q Who came?

A The Doctor and the paymaster or time-keeper. They called me to the door. Dr. Hawkins says, "I hear you have joined the Union." I says, "I most certainly have." He just handed me a sealed envelope. I tore it open and looked at it. I says, "Dr. Hawkins, you go and get my money." They owed me \$5.50 though they owed enough to pay all rent. My money is due when I come out." He

said he would like to accomodate me but he could not. On Friday evening or Saturday, one, the bailiff come down there and gave me another three days notice. At the end of three days he put me out on the street, him and three nigger men who come down there, and laid my things out, laid them out on the sidewalk, laid them right on the curb of the street.

Q Then you went to the camp?

A No Sir, they moved us in a house and kept us until the strikers moved to camps.

Q You mean with the strikers?

A Yes Sir, they rented a house and kept us until the strikers moved us to the camp.

Q Have you had good health in the camp?

A I have had as good health there as anywhere.

Q Has there been much sickness at the camp?

A No Sir, nothing dangerous, some bad colds.

Q What sort of house did you live in before you went there?

A A little two room hut on the Boulevard. Four rooms, but we were only allowed in our family to have two rooms.

Q Then they put two families to the house?

A Yes sir, that is \$4.00 a month.

Q Was there a toilet connected with your house?

A No Sir. These houses I lived in had belonged to Woodside but the company leased them, or bought them, I don't know which. They were right at the cemetery.

Q Were the yards kept clean?

A It is according to how we kept them. I kept mine clean.

Q Were the toilets kept flushed?

A Yes Sir.

Q Who did that? The company?

A The company attended to it before the strike. After we moved from there the city did. I had been living in the factory yard, in the mill village rather, until we went out on the strike. Everything was in pretty bad condition. They are attached, you know now, the toilets are since the strike.

Q Were you hurt while in the mill?

A Yes Sir, I got hit in the head with a spool.

Q What did they do with you?

A I was spooling, and I went in and went to work Wednesday noon. They put me to spooling.

Q When did this happen?

A About two years ago. The travis on the frame broke and the thread tangled, and that caused the spool to fly off and swing around and hit me.

Q Did they carry you to the hospital?

A No Sir, my section boss carried me to the office and Mr. Florence washed the blood off my face and dressed it the best he said he could and sent me up in town to have the Doctor dress it and when he got through I was past speaking. I had fainted, and my husband worked in the mill and come out there and Mr. Florence got a cot and placed me in the back of the office and laid me on it and called the Doctor. He come down and redressed my head and asked Florence what he had given me to take and he said he had not given me anything. He says, "The lick being where it is has caused a shock to the whole system." I got a nervous shock, I was perfectly cold and could not speak. He asked Mr. Florence if he had any whiskey and he told him yes, and they brought the whiskey and helped me up on the cot and told me to drink the whiskey.

Q Have they any hospital there?

A No Sir.

Q No rest room?

A They have got a place at the Wesley House, I don't think they often carry anyone out there. I never was out there. So at closing time that night they still had me in the office and never notified my children but left and went home and the children was crying and asked what became of me. They knew I was hurt but they didn't know where I was. They told my husband they would

send me home but they did not and I stayed there until closing time, and Mr. Florence came in and told Mr. Sweatt to stay there with me until the truck comes and to send me home. I stayed until 9:30. Mr. Sweatt and another man carried me home at 10 o'clock in the night.

Q How long were you ill after that?

A Two weeks I was out.

Q Did the mill look after you then?

A No Sir.

Q Who did?

A I got a Doctor of my own.

Q Who was your Doctor?

A Dr. Christian.

Q You got up most of the time?

A No Sir, I stayed in bed two or three days. I was up in the house but was not able to go in the mill. My face was black and blue from the lick.

Q Did they inquire about you?

A No Sir.

Q Did Dr. Hawkins come to see you?

A No Sir.

Q Nobody connected with the mill?

A No Sir. Once before that I was struck in the head. I was getting some spools out of the box holding the spools and as I rasiéd up a girl threw one of the spoás

and struck me in the head and cut me to the skull. They sent me up to the Candler Building to have it treated, and gave me 10¢ for carfare. The next time I drew my ticket they said on it, "Carfare, 10¢," and took it out.

Q Did you see many little children in the mill?

A Yes Sir.

Q How small?

A Nine, ten, eleven years old. There was a lady used to work there, she has left here now. She had some little girls working in there, no higher than that (indicating), looked like death too.

Q Looked bad?

A Yes Sir, certainly did. I know they worked children in there because when my girl went in and went to work she wasn't but eleven years old.

Q When was that?

A That is the one up here now. She has been there ever since she was eleven.

Q When children go there to work do you know whether they take certificates from the mother or not?

A No Sir, they just get the mother to sign the name at the window. You go down there and ask for the child a job and they will ask you how old is the child you want to sign up.

Q You sign a contract that they are so old?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did you sign a contract when you went to work there?

A Yes Sir. If you are out two weeks you have to sign it anew.

Q Does everybody sign a contract?

A Yes Sir, everybody that works in the mill.

Q Have you worked straight notices?

A We have a quit notice, a straight notice.

Q Did you sign a contract for your daughter?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did your daughter sign too?

A Yes sir, has to sign her own name.

Q How about the temperature? How about ventilation?

A We don't have any.

Q Can you see out through the windows of that room?

A No Sir.

Q Why?

A Most of them have smoked glass, I reckon you would call it.

Q Glazed glass?

A Yes Sir.

Q You can't see out?

A No Sir.

Q Is there a wall surrounding this mill?

A Yes Sir.

Q How is that built, do you know?

A Part of it is built out of concrete and the rest out of plank.

Q Are there any obstructions on the top to keep people from going over?

A About fourteen strands of barbed wire are on the plank while broken glass is on the concrete wall.

Q Did you meet Mr. Elsas, President of the mill, when you were there?

A Never did but one time and that was the evening they sent me off for coming down to join the Union.

Q Was he present?

A The old gentleman was.

Q That is Mr. Jacob Elsas?

A Yes Sir.

Q He was present?

A He was there.

Q What did he say?

A He come in and Mr. Florence wasn't in. He says, "What do you want? Do you want a check?" I told him no, I told him Mr. Florence had sent for me and wanted to see me and he told me to have a seat and wait until he came.

Q Did he hear the conversation?

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A No Sir, he did not hear that?

Q You had time held over by being out of the mill over five days?

A Yes Sir, being out two days.

Q You had time held over to the next week?

A Yes sir.

Q Did it cause you any inconvenience? Cause you to suffer for something to eat?

A It did one time when they held up my time, I could not get any groceries, could not pay my grocery bill. They said I would have to wait until I got my money and made apayment on it. It is inconvenient anyway because we drew on Saturday and when Saturday comes they will stop our money, if we are out two days, and hold it in there until the next week. We have nothing at all to buy wood or coal or anything we need on Saturdays..

Q Are there many sick people in the mill village to your knowledge, as a rule?

A I don't know much about that.
