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SHUFORD B. MARKS, sworn, testified:

EXAMINATION BY MR. DALY.

Q: Where do you live?

A: 52 Rosalia Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

Q: How long have you lived in Atlanta?

A: Since 1902; I believe, this January.

Q: Were you born in Georgia?

A: Yes Sir.

Q: Where else have you lived in Georgia besides Atlanta?

A: I have lived in Lithonia, Lawrenceville, Winder, Jefferson and Gainsville; I believe that is the extent.

Q: What is your occupation?

A: Web-pressman by trade, newspaper pressman, but at the present time I am engaged in clerical work for the City of Atlanta.

Q: What other position do you hold officially in the way of being connected with labor?

A: I am President of the Georgia Federation of Labor; Secretary-Treasurer of the Atlanta Labor Temple Association; Secretary-Treasurer of the Web-Pressmen's Union.

Q: What is your membership in Georgia in the Federation of Labor.

A: About 12,000 through affiliation.

Q: You are familiar with the operation of Local

No. 886 of the United Textile Workers of America?

A To some extent I am.

Q Do you know when that was organized?

A On the 18th day of October 1913.

Q Do you know whether or not this Local was about to be organized before it was done, Mr. Marks?

A I do.

Q Were you communicated with as to its organization?

A I was, because there was a strike prior to its organization, and at a meeting held on the day of the strike, I believe, I was requested to attend the meeting of the strikers and was advised at that meeting that they were preparing to make application for a charter, or had made application at that time?

Q And they made application to you, or the United Textile Workers?

A No, to the United Textile Workers, because the question came up and we were under the impression that the I. W. W. had gotten hold of it and I questioned them relative to who they were going to get their charter through and then I was advised it was through the United Textile Workers of America.

Q Who seemed to be organizing that Local?

A A fellow named F. W. Flynn.

Q What did he represent?

A Nothing more than himself. He had never had any connection, I don't think, with the Labor Union before.

Q He was a worker in the mills, was he?

A He was a worker in the mills.

Q He organized that Local?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did any of the textile workers of the Fulton Bag Mills consult with you as to the advisability of this first strike that you are talking about?

A No, I attended a great many of their meetings later. In fact I attended every meeting regularly, almost everyone, that they had for a short time prior to the second strike, and I was presiding over the meeting the night when the strike vote was taken. We had discussed the conditions of the mill, the workers in the mill, and we had a telegram from Mr. Miles, organizer of the United Textile Workers of America.

Q Mr. Charles A. Miles?

A Yes Sir. He had gone to Washington and later on to New York for the purpose of conferring with the international officials of the textile workers, the International Union, in an effort to see what assistance could be procured for the Local here in event a strike was forced upon them. This telegram was to the effect

that they could not guarantee the regular strike benefit to all of those affected, if a strike was called, but would give all the support morally and financially that they could give but they would not bind themselves to anything definite. This was discussed generally and I would not advise them either way; but merely read this telegram to them and interpreted it according to the way I considered it and placed my interpretation upon it.

Q Do you know what the membership of that Local was at that time?

A At that time it was claimed to be about 300, as well as I remember. I am not positive.

Q Do you think they had that many?

A I had no reason to believe that they made a false statement. I remember in one instance looking over their books and I know they had along list of names.

Q Did you give them any advise as to the probability of being able to win, owing to the fact that they had been so recently organized and not very strong down here?

A I don't think I gave them any advise other than I told them what to expect and what not to expect in the way of assistance, though I think now I really definitely advised nothing except they were on their own resources.

Q On the 20th of May, 1914, there was another strike?

A Year Sir, that was after the Union was organized.

Q Between October, 1913, and the 20th of May, 1914, were you still in touch somewhat with this Local?

A I was constantly in touch with them all that time.

Q The Local continued to grow all that time?

A Yes Sir.

Q What do you know, if anything, as to the way these Union people were treated in the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills between these two dates?

A The only knowledge I have is their statements made in my presence.

Q What statements were made by the mill workers in your presence as to the conditions there, and how they were treated? Because they were Union men was there anything done to them?

A There was a great number reported there discharged which was claimed because they belonged to the Union, and it seems that the most of them who were discharged were members of the Union which caused them to be continuously getting in new members in order to hold their organization to the standard they had previously organized to. My understanding is there were 80 some odd discharged in a couple of weeks out there and everyone was a member of the Union and they had resorted to meeting at the different houses at night rather than have

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them go to the hall, because it seemed that the company was getting possession of this information somehow or other.

Q So the Union met secretly?

A They held every meeting in a hall, it could hardly be called secretly because anyone came. I was outside and saw them coming in the hall.

Q Do you know of any particular case where they seemed to be spied upon because they were Union men?

A I remember an instance of when one of the second hands in a department and one or two petty officials and foremen like were pointed out to me in a soda fount across from the hall, and those who came into the hall seemed to be under the impression that that was their purpose there. Their attitude had not been so very friendly towards them.

Q Do you know of any other cases where information seemed to be given out by spies, detectives or anything of that sort?

A Well, nothing definite only that I remember they found a dictograph after the strike had occurred in a hall, and they traced the wire to a vacant house to the rear of the building where the hall was located. I was not present at the time. I saw a part of the

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that was
machine/located in the hall.

Q What became of the machine?

A I do not remember what became of it and I could not tell you now who showed it to me.

Q Did they ever learn who operated the dictograph?

A I think they had an idea but I won't say whether they knew the parties, I am not sure. These details are vague to me now because it has been a long while and for the last several months I have not been in close enough touch to keep these little details on my mind.

Q Did the United Textile Workers of America, having been affiliated with your great organization, take any steps toward calling the attention of the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills to the fact that Union men were being discharged?

A After the strike occurred we got out a strike bulletin.

Q Before the strike?

A No, before the strike I don't think there was anything done; that is, generally.

Q Didn't you write down there?

A I thought you asked me if I had tried to get into communication or let other Unions know about it.

Q No.

A I wrote a letter to the management of the mill the first day of their conference, I believe, calling

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their attention to the fact that so many had been discharged, and as practically all of them were members of the Union we were led to believe it was for that purpose because all of them discharged were members of the Union. That was sent to the Mills officially and handed to them by one of the members of the Union. I got one of the officers to get some one to send it over there and I am not positive, but I am pretty sure it was one of the mill hands, one who had previously been employed there.

Q Do you know whether the message was delivered or not?

A I never did get any reply. The only evidence I have that the message was delivered was the statement delivered to me by the man who went over there that it was and that there was no reply..

Q What did this man who took it down there report?

A He said they said there was no reply, I believe he left it. He told Mr. Mullinax or Mr. Flynn and they brought the information to me. I sent them back again to get a reply. So they went back again and I have of course no positive information concerning it. I have every reason to believe it was delivered.

Q Then you never did get any reply to that communication from the mill?

A Never did.

Q Now, as to the strike of May 20th, 1914, did your organization advise the strike then or not?

A Well, we advised with them as far as conducting the strike was concerned.

Q Did you advise them that the best thing to do was to strike?

A No Sir, I did not.

Q How did that come around?

A As I stated, they discussed the matter; that is, the conditions in the mill and the large number that the company discharged and there was seemingly no other reason except that they were members of the Union. Several were discharged whose work was satisfactory and who had worked in the mill a number of years. Whose work had previously been accepted, and they were discharged with no other reason except their services were no longer needed. All these things were discussed and they considered it necessary to resist these conditions; that was the only weapon they seemed to know. A strike vote was taken. There was a large vote, about three votes against it and the rest for it.

Q In these discussions about the strike and about the differences and about the discharges, did you hear any objections raised as to whether a strike should be called

A. Of course there was quite a stand against both the fines and deductions for infractions of rules and things of that sort. That was the serious objection, and we thought that could be remedied; but when they voted for the strike they took that into consideration, and other phases of the situation.

Q As to the wages the company paid, did they discuss them?

A Yes Sir, they discussed that and everything.

Q Did they seem to think that the wages were too low?

A They did for the hours they had been working, they thought the hours were too long and the wages too low.

Q Had you anything to do with the commissary?

A Nothing only some little investigation I made with Marquardt on one or two occasions.

Q Have there been many labor troubles in this community?

A Very few.

Q Has there been any violence committed by members of this Council of Labor?

A Not that I remember.

Q Were there any troubles that arose in the South before this labor trouble started?

A Yes, I remember some in the State but do not

recall any in Atlanta.

Q What has been the policy of the Union as to peace between the employer and employee in Atlanta?

A Well, that of the Union members the relations between employers and employees have been very cordial and peaceable and we have had but very little friction.

Q Do you know of any instances in Georgia where anyone has been killed?

A Not in any cotton mill strike, but two or three people were killed during the street railway strike in Augusta.

Q Generally speaking the conditions have been very good, haven't they?

A Yes Sir.

Q You were never in the Fulton Mills, were you?

A Yes Sir. I worked there.

Q When did you work in there? Are you a textile worker?

A Yes Sir, I am.

Q When did you work there?

A In 1902, I think. I worked there about two weeks.

Q What doing?

A Weaving.

Q What were the conditions then as you saw them then in the weaving department?

A As far as the conditions in the mill are concerned I don't know whether they were any worse than they were in any other mills I had been in at that time.

It has been so long ago I don't remember.

Q Did you stay there long?

A No Sir, I stayed there about two weeks.

Q Did you work a notice?

A Yes Sir, I believe I did.

Q Did you get your money?

A As well as I remember I got ^{it} a week or such a matter afterwards. I am not positive. I was not there but a short time.

Q Did you ever live in the mill village?

A No.

Q Are you familiar with the conditions in that village?

A I made some investigations since the strike.

Q What were the conditions as you knew them before the strike?

A I am acquainted with what the sanitary conditions are. The toilets are a lot of cuts. I had some photographs taken.

Q Where are those photographs?

A I have got them now. We had one or two photographs taken of those toilets. It was just a shed and with boxes and running down between the two rows of houses was a trough running the full length and the houses have practically four families to them, about four families living in each house.

Q Several families live in a house?

A Yes Sir.

Note: Mr. Marks will produce the photographs as an exhibit (See Appendix.)

Q Is there anything else you would like to state?

A You mean the conditions that existed or should not have existed?

Q Should not exist, yes.

A Well, of course, I would say that the labor organizations in Atlanta, and I think through the entire State, were acquainted with the conditions existing in the mill as they were represented to us and the fines and this docking system that they have in effect there together with the contract that their employees are compelled to sign, and the labor people had become very much incensed over it and their sympathy was aroused to the extent of voluntary assessments being levied upon their members to aid them in carrying on this strike. As a result of this strike the Georgia Federation of Labor has prepared three bills which it will present to the next session of the Legislature having for their purpose to remedy some of these evils existing in this mill as well as some others in the State.

Q Do you know of any other mill that has a similar

contract to this?

A I have heard of one other but I don't remember the name of the mill. I have heard there is one other in the South, but I am not positive that it is in Georgia.

Q If this contract was abolished down here at this mill and that system of fines and reductions was made at least something more reasonable, what effect would that have upon the labor conditions in connection with this mill?

A That would have a good effect. The mill village would have to be improved. That is improve the environments of the people. They would have to be improved. As a general rule the great percentage of people employed in the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills, from my observations, we would not expect to improve these people. that is the great majority of them, I will say to the standard of citizenship of other trades of the present generation. But by making the working conditions and the home surroundings better we would expect the coming generation to be considerably improved, both intellectually, morally and in every other respect.

Q What were you doing in living in so many communities in Georgia? Were you working in the mills?

A No Sir, my father was in business. He first lived

in Jeferson, Gworgia; was a shoemaker in that time and later went into the mercantile business.

Q What is your understanding from the varities of conditions of other mills in Georgia as compared with this mill? Have you any data on the subject?

A Well, nothing definite. Of course I have heard of the conditions of the mills in Augusta. That is about the only mill in Georgia that I have heard anything at all about. It seems from information I have that most of the mills have oomditions generally about the same as in the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills with the exception of the fining and dooking system which seems to prevail to a greater extent in the Fulton Mills than any I know of.

Q And withholding wages?

A Yes, withholding wages. Now I was told that some of the clerks in the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mill had boasted of the fact that the new mill was built entirely on money withheld from employees for various reasons.

Q Have you any idea who those clerks were?

A No, I have not. The party who gave me the information is a reliable person. I would not want to use his name in this manner, but I believe he would tell you the same thing.

Q Have him tell it to me.

A I can do that, yes.

Q To go back to the effort to get an adjustment of this trouble, did you or not, as president of the Georgia Federation of Labor appoint a committee to confer with the people at the Fulton Mills?

A No, not as president of the Georgia Federation of Labor.

Q In what capacity?

A As chairman of the meeting at the time this was suggested, and I would not appoint the committee myself without getting the advice of the active members of the Council.

Q A committee was appointed by you?

A Yes Sir, by me.

Q Who were they? Do you remember?

A No, I do not. I remember Marquardt was one, and I was supposed to go if I was situated so I could go, but I could not.

Q Was Cohen another?

A Cohen was one.

Q How about Jerome Jones?

A He was to go along if he could, but he could not go.

Q How about this man named Carson?

A I believe Carson was substituted for another fellow

as well as I remember.

Q Marquardt was on the committee?

A Yes Sir.

Q Do you know whether they accomplished anything or not?

A No, they did not accomplish anything. There was one thing principally that impressed me; Statements made in the hall by women as to the conduct of some of these foremen or overseers or assistant overseers making improper proposals to them. One statement I remember particularly was that if he could not get in her backdoor some night, something of that kind.

Q Do you know who made that statement?

A I believe I would know if I heard the name called. It was in the bag mill. That was after the strike was called. I think it was profane language too. They cursed these girls. That was reported too..

Q You have no evidence that she went to Mr. Elsas or Mr. Johnstone, or anything like that?

A No Sir.

Q Do you know Mr. Elsas?

A No Sir, only when I see him.

Q Do you know Mr. Johnstone?

A No Sir, would not know him if I were to see him.
