

RHW 1

ROBERT H. WRIGHT, sworn, testified:

EXAMINATION BY MR. DALY.

Q Where do you live Mr. Wright?

A 24 Bersan Avenue.

Q Is that in the mill village?

A No Sir.

Q What is your occupation?

A I learned to be a carpenter, is the only trade I ever learned.

Q What are you doing now?

A Working in the bag mill now, running a cutting machine.

Q How long have you been running the cutting machine?

A Eleven years.

Q Where are you employed at this time?

A In the bag mill.

Q The Fulton Bag Mills?

A Yes Sir.

Q Have you worked there for the whole eleven years?

A No Sir, just a intervals.

Q Where have you worked during the eleven years you have been in the cotton business?

A I never did any cotton mill work. The only work

I ever did in connection with the cotton mills was here with this company.

Q How long have you been working with the Fulton Mills?

A Altogether I suppose about three years. Off and on for eleven years.

Q How many times have you been with the Fulton Bag Mills?

A I can't remember. Some three or four times.

Q Were you with them in October, 1914?

A Yes Sir.

Q Do you remember of any trouble that occurred here in October 1913?

A Yes Sir, a little trouble.

Q Were you in the mill at the time?

A Yes Sir.

Q Were you engaged in that trouble?

A No Sir.

Q Do you know anything about it?

A Nothing only what I have heard.

Q Were you working still with the mill after October 1913 and during the winter of 1914?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did you work up to May 20th, 1914?

A Yes Sir.

Q How much longer than that did you work?

A About two and a half ~~and~~ three months. I came out in July.

Q When did you leave their employ if you did so?

A In July.

Q Have you a family, a wife?

A Yes Sir.

Q How large a family have you?

A A wife and two children, married daughter and a son nineteen years old.

Q Do your children work in the mill?

A No Sir.

Q Did your wife?

A Up to October.

Q Which October do you mean? October 1913?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did she stop work then?

A For a short period of time.

Q Why did she stop?

A She was over persuaded to go out in sympathy with the textile workers.

Q Was she a member of the Union?

A Yes Sir.

Q Were you?

A Yes Sir.

Q When did you join the Union?

A On the 26th day of July I think.

Q Then you were not a member of the Union when you quit work; is that your understanding?

A No Sir.

Q You were in the mill on May 20th, 1914?

A Yes Sir.

Q That is the time in which the walk-out occurred, isn't it?

A Yes Sir.

Q Do you remember that date clearly?

A Yes Sir.

Q Where were you working that day?

A I was working in the bag mill?

Q What did you do in the bag mill?

A That day I was cutting burlap.

Q Were you in a position to see who went out of the mill that day?

A Yes Sir.

Q Could you see any number that went out?

A I counted 76.

Q Had your attention been called to the fact that you ought to count them?



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A No Sir.

Q But you counted them?

A Yes Sir, I had three men working with me. One told me he was going to strike and went on and right under his hat I was making notes and counting them.

Q You counted 76?

A Yes Sir.

Q Were you here next day?

A Yes Sir.

Q Do you know whether or not others left that same day May 20th, and did not come back the next day?

A I do not know anything about that.

Q Then you still stayed in the mill?

A Yes Sir.

Q How did you come to leave the mill?

A I was persuaded to go out.

Q Who persuaded you?

A I was persuaded by Mullinax, Fleming and a number of other textile workers?

Q Who is Mullinax and Fleming?

A They were two that was in the first walkout in October. I understand they were borrowed from the mill. I did not know that. I was persuaded by them and Mr. Harris Gober.

Q What did they say to you?

A They came to me at different hours and finally on Sunday afternoon Mrs. E. B. Smith and Charles A. Miles, I believe his initials are, came to my home. Mrs. Smith was an agitator and Mr. Miles was an organizer.

Q For the textile workers?

A Yes Sir, and they came to my house Sunday afternoon on Powell Street and told me they were going to send in the names in two or three weeks and unless I came out my job was gone to the four winds, I think; I would have no job if I did not come out then; that I could not join the Union if they had one. And then they went right ahead and told me they would pay my rent and give me and my wife \$6.00 worth of groceries a week if we came out. The rent was \$15.00 a month.

Q Were both present when they told you that?

A Yes Sir.

Q Any body else?

A Yes Sir, my wife and son-in-law.

Q What is his name?

A S. B. Edson.

Q Is he here?

A No Sir, he works for the gas company.

Q Then you believed what they said?

A I did not know what to believe about it, I seen a

crowd growing about the commissary; I did not know the textile workers had it but I seen a crowd gathering around the commissary.

Q Were you in any way dissatisfied with the treatment you had in the mill up to that time?

A No Sir, not at all.

Q Had you been well treated?

A Yes Sir, always.

Q You had left the mill, hadn't you, two or three times within the eleven years you claim you had worked there?

A Yes Sir.

Q At any of the times you had left had you had any trouble connected with the mill about any overseer or superintendent?

A At one time, but Mr. Oscar adjusted that. That was when I first came to Atlanta. I did not have any trouble although my wife did.

Q You were never mad with them?

A I never had any trouble with any of them.

Q Tell about that. Your wife had trouble and did you quit because of the trouble your wife had?

A Yes Sir.

Q Who adjusted that for you?

A Mr. Oscar.

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Q And you went back to work?

A No Sir, I did not because I had already made arrangements to work with the carpenters; I got mad with them and told Mr. Oscar so.

Q Going back to the time that Mrs. Smith and Miles saw you and asked you to come out that was one day last summer; did you go out? Did you quit work on the day following or not?

A No Sir, I went to the hall the day following, the strikers' hall, and then on Tuesday put in my notice.

Q Did you work out your notice?

A No Sir, Tuesday I got my time.

Q You did not work your notice?

A No Sir.

Q Did you get your wages?

A Yes Sir.

Q When did they pay you?

A Tuesday at dinner.

Q They paid you your time and you did not work out your notice; is that correct?

A Yes Sir.

Q What reason did you give the mill?

A I put in the notice, I was dissatisfied in mind and decided to join the Union.

Q Did you tell them any particular thing that you decided about?

A No Sir.

Q Did they ask you?

A No Sir.

Q Who were you talking to?

A I put that on the notice. They require us to put a reason on the notice.

Q You put on the notice you were dissatisfied in your mind?

A Yes Sir, I did not have room on the notice to explain.

Q Suppose you had had room on the notice, what would you have stated?

A I would have told them I was confused about my job.

Q Thought you would lose your job?

A Yes Sir.

Q You thought you had better join the strikers to hold your job?

A Yes Sir.

Q You worked in the mill on Monday and came back on Tuesday?

A I came back Tuesday morning to work and worked until noon .

Q Did that work your notice out?

A No Sir.

Q When did you go back to the strikers' meeting?

A Wednesday morning.

Q Did you join the Union then?

A I joined the Union Monday morning.

Q Did you go to the Local to join it?

A Yes Sir.

Q How many were present at the Local?

A I suppose there were three or four hundred.

Q Did you make a speech?

A I made a little talk, yes Sir.

Q Do you remember any particular things you stated?

A No Sir, I made several talks up there.

Q Do you remember the day when I walked into the meeting when you were talking, last summer?

A No Sir, I cannot call it to memory just now.

Q On this day you were speaking and one of the things you stated was in reference to the conduct of the young men in taking care of your sister under certain circumstances. Do you remember that speech you made?

A Yes Sir.

Q Do you remember the details you stated on that day?

A No Sir, I could not.

Q Did you speak about your treatment in the mill in any of these speeches?

A I don't remember whether I did or not. I may have, because I went into the fight with my coat off and my sleeves rolled up to win the fight because I thought that was the only thing to affect my job after the strike.

Q Did you talk about mill conditions?

A I may have.

Q Did you talk about conditions in the mill village?

A I may have.

Q About the sanitary conditions, can you remember now whether you talked about them or not?

A I would not be positive about that.

Q Do you think you did or did not?

A In some of these speeches I made I was agitated to some extent.

Q You think you did speak about the mill then, don't you?

A I may have.

Q You spoke about sanitary conditions, didn't you?

A I may have.

Q And the general conditions of the workers, didn't you?

A If I did it was when I was agitated, because I did

not know anything about the condition of the workers in the mill.

Q Did you speak about child labor, little children and other conditions?

A I may have spoke about my opinion on child labor.

Q What was your opinion?

A That children of certain ages ought to be eliminated from factories.

Q You worked in the mill a good while, and you know as to conditions about child labor in the mill; as a rule are many little children working in the mill?

A I don't know about the cotton mill.

Q You did not work in there?

A No Sir, I was in the bag mill.

Q How many children worked in the bag mill?

A A good many, but they were good sized children, They have to be.

Q The proper age of course?

A Yes Sir.

Q I think I asked this question before; but in all these years, except the time your wife had the trouble, you personally had no trouble in the mill had you?

A Not any whatever, no Sir.



Q Did you know anything about the exhorter for the strikers?

A Yes Sir.

Q Were you personally connected with that?

A I was unanimously elected President of the Local after I joined them, and there was some complaints coming to me from the textile workers about the conditions at the commissary and the way things were going on down there and they let me investigate.

Q What was the result of your investigation?

A I found Mrs. E. B. Smith and others were carrying stuff from the commissary that she put on the tables and in their cars, swapping it for beer and Coca Cola and stuff was being carried away to one of the strikers' father's store.

Q Then the strikers were not getting the benefit of the goods furnished them?

A No Sir.

Q Did you find further in that investigation that some got the orders filled and some did not?

A In other words, I found that some got part of the orders filled and on the back of the orders, which was turned over, they marked "filled".

Q How long were you President of that Union?

A I was elected sometime in July, and was President until we went into camp?

Q In Sempember?

A Yes Sir, I was President, held the position of President four weeks after they went into camp.

Q Why did you give up your position as President?

A I made, as I said before, an investigation about the commissary and found some things that were not altogether lovely.

Q What were they?

A I found some of the leaders were not willing to treat the real strikers right and fair. The real strikers were coming to me with their complaints about they were not getting any help from the Union.

Q What do you mean by the real strikers?

A Those that were out on the strike, the real people that was in the cotton mill. After I went out I found that the 1250 that Mrs. Smith told me were cotton mill workers -- I found about one-tenth of them worked at the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills. The balance was composed of hobos and bums that blowed in here on a cyclone from everywhere.

Q You were in position as President to know how many people had come out from the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills

all the time during the strike up to the time you quit, weren't you?

A Yes Sir.

Q What is your testimony as to the exact number that came out of the mill?

A I will say the number is 125.

Q Are you sure it was not 150?

A No Sir; I belonged to the executive committee sometime before I was elected President.

Q 76 went out the first day?

A Yes Sir.

Q And after that 49 more went out, is that correct?

A Yes Sir.

Q And there never were any more during the time you were officially connected with that Union, more than 125?

A Yes Sir, there were others joined the Union.

Q Others joined the Union?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did they come out of the Fulton Bag Mill?

A Some of them did but they were scattered. The biggest bulk came --

Q What I want to know is, while you were President outside the organization how many people were members of

that organization that had worked in the Fulton Bag Mills?

A You mean during the whole time of the strike?

Q Yes Sir.

A I could not answer that question because I don't know.

Q What was you referring to when you spoke of 125?

A I was referring to the time I became President.

Q There were 125 connected with Local 886 that had worked in the Fulton Mills?

A Yes Sir.

Q Had any others joined after that date?

A Yes Sir.

Q Were they from the mills?

A Yes Sir.

Q Have you any idea how many there were?

A No Sir.

Q Do you think there were 75 more?

A May have been more or less than that, I could not tell, because the cotton mill peoples' offices were mostly strangers to me. Those that had charge of this I was not personally acquainted with.

Q Was there any record made in the Local as to the fact that a person had come out of the mills when he joined it?

A I did not see any.

Q You stated you were persuaded to go out by Miles,

Mrs. Smith and others and they promised to give you how much money a week?

A Promised to pay my house rent, \$15.00 a month.

Q How much else?

A To furnish me and my wife \$6.00 a week for groceries.

Q Did they carry out their promises?

A No Sir.

Q How much did they do?

A They give me one week, they paid one month's rent on the 27th. The rent was due on the 18th of July, 1913, and that was the only rent they ever paid for me and I suppose all told we got something like about \$15.00 or \$20.00 out of the commissary.

Q How did you live?

A My son-in-law was working for the gas company?

Q He lived with you?

A Yes Sir, in the house with me. He volunteered to see that I did not suffer.

Q You had a picket line didn't you?

A Yes Sir.

Q How many men would you have on picket?

A I don't know Sir.

Q Who had the selection of these men? You as President?

A No Sir, the President had very little to do with anything.

Q Who did have the selection of these men?

A I think Mrs. Conway did and Mrs. Smith after Mrs. Conway left.

Q Who was she?

A A lady from the North.

Q How long did she stay?

A I could not tell.

Q Was it a long time or a short time?

A A short time.

Q Was Mrs. Keller here?

A Yes Sir, they were together.

Q Why did they leave?

A I don't know Sir only what I heard.

Q What did you hear?

A I heard it was Mrs. Smith's wishes that they leave.

Q Mrs. Smith seemed to want to run the whole proposition, is that it?

A It seemed so.

Q Did she have a good deal to say in the textile camp outside the organization?

A Yes Sir.

Q Well, the camp was surrounded by pickets, wasn't it?

A Supposed to be.

Q What did they do?

A My understanding was that they tried to keep all strangers out of the mill.

Q And have them join the Union?

A Yes Sir.

Q While you were President of that Union, from the time, you say you joined until the time you say you left, was there any particular disturbance that was caused by the pickets or by anybody whom they approached?

A I did not see any person, I heard of some.

Q Didn't that come before your organization?

A I did not understand that question exactly.

Q Was there any trouble with the picket line?

A You mean between the pickets and others?

Q Was there any disorder caused by the pickets or by people that they approached to leave the mills?

A Why, I don't know of any person, nothing I can call to mind just now. I may have heard of it and forgotten.

Q Have you heard of any since you came in the mill?

A No Sir.

Q Were you here when Mr. Golden was here?

A Yes Sir.

Q When was he here?

A I don't remember what month. He has been here on several occasions.

Q Did you converse with him while he was here?

A Yes Sir.

Q Were you President of the Local while he was here?

A Yes Sir, on one occasion.

Q Would you tell him about the strike?

A I made a date with Mr. Golden to meet me at my house on Monday morning at 10 o'clock; I told him during that conversation about the grievances of the people living at the camps and asked him if he did not think there was some remedy for it and he asked me how we could get to see these people in a body; he would be glad if we could have a meeting of some kind. I said, "We can have a meeting alright. I can get the use of the church up here and we will have a meeting Monday night at 7:30 and I will notify these people you will speak, and you be there". He said he would and he was there. Those people at the camps began to pour in their grievances.

Q What were those grievances?

A That they were not being helped.

Q Were not getting their share of what was being spent by them; was that the grievance?

A That was one of the grievances.

Q What was another?

A One lady spoke up and said she thought the strike ought to be called off and the people that went out have



a chance to go back to work. Of course Mr. Golden objected to that and I think the grievances were a little more than President Golden was expecting, so he adjourned the meeting himself; told them they would continue the meeting up there at the hall the following night. Now, I would not be there because I had not been assisting the meeting for some time; so he adjourned the meeting at the church that night himself. Then I met Mr. Golden after that in the Court House, the day Mrs. E. B. Smith had her commitment trial, that is Callahan rather, and Mr. Golden said he would like to see me and have a personal talk with me and he thought he and I could get together and adjust some matters and I told him I would be glad to call and see him and have a talk with him at any time and any place. I never heard anything more from him.

Q Going back to the investigation you made as President into the transaction of Smith and Miles, will you repeat that again? In the commissary you found the groceries were being carried out and being traded for beer and Coca Cola?

A Yes Sir.

Q What report, in your judgment was the cause of this strike order?

A I could not say any more than what I heard up

here on the streets one Saturday night in October.

Q What was that?

A That was following the trouble. They stated Mr. Fowler had been discharged and unless the company put him back to work they were going out.

Q That was the first strike?

A Yes Sir.

Q What was the cause of the second strike?

A My wife come out then, in order that you might understand me, where I got my information, the way I got it, my wife come out in October.

Q What was the understanding you had of the cause of this strike when you joined Local No. 886? You were there and heard them talking all the time?

A Yes Sir.

Q You were right in there and making speeches and knew what was the real trouble?

A They said they had four grievances. One was the elimination of child labor.

Q Did you hear tell of the child labor proposition before the strike occurred?

A No Sir.

Q What is the second one?

A The second was the 54-hour week.

Q They were working 60 hours?

A Yes Sir; and the third was -- I don't know that I remember what the third was.

Q What was the fourth?

A The fourth was the recognition of the Union. The third was 15% rates.

Q Did you hear anything about the cause of this strike before May 20th?

A No Sir, only one.

Q What cause did you hear then before May 20th that was given.

A Mr. Fowler being discharged.

Q Was there any talk before that about members of the Union being discharged among the men before May 20th?

A I heard it rumored, yes Sir.

Q Did you hear any particular person say that?

A No Sir.

Q It was a rumor you heard?

A Yes Sir.

Q On May 20th when they went out, why did they leave the mill that particular day, do you know?

A No Sir, I do not.

Q You don't know what they stated?

A No Sir.

Q As President of the Local you did not know that?

A No Sir, I was not President at that time.

Q I know, but afterwards as President you did not learn about that?

A No Sir. I was going on to tell you that in October Mr. Flynn seemed to be leaving at that time and my wife had gone out through sympathy and she heard Mr. Flynn make a speech and they were going to Trinity Avenue Federation of Labor Hall and put the question before them as to whether they could go back to work honorably or not and Mr. Flynn was to make a speech up there that night and my wife wanted me to go and insisted on me going to hear Mr. Flynn make a speech and I went over there. That was during the trouble in October. Mr. Flynn made a speech, a beautiful speech, and in his speech he asked if they could honorably go back to work; that they had not organized the Union at that time, or words to that effect. After the crowd came back that night I heard someone, I don't know who it was because the crowd was to the rear of my wife and myself, we were sitting on the front porch and I heard someone say, "As soon as we are old enough we will strike".

Q What did you think that meant?

A I took, that to mean a strike and the same old

trouble, the discharge of Mr. Fowler.

Q As soon as they were old enough?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did that refer to the Local No. 886 being organized?

A I suppose so. I took that for granted that was what they were talking about, because there was something said about charter over here and they were looking after it at that time.

Q Did you ever live in the mill village?

A Yes Sir.

Q When did you live in the mill village?

A I moved to the mill village when I first came to Atlanta eleven years ago.

Q Did you live in thereafter that time?

A Yes Sir.

Q When again did you live there?

A I lived therein September about three years ago.

Q About three years ago what were the sanitary conditions there?

A I found the sanitary condition fairly well. Of course children would goe out and like children will around any home, there being so many children around there it made it more numerous around a home where it is paled in.

Q How did they clean the toilets?

A The toilets were flushed, I think, twice or three times, maybe four times a day.

Q An open trough?

A Yes sir.

Q Did men, women and children all go in the same toilet?

A I think they all went in the same toilet.

Q How large was the house that you lived in?

A I lived in a twelve room house.

Q How many families were in the house?

A Three besides mine.

Q How many persons?

A I don't know.

Q How many were in your family?

A Five of us.

Q Are the rooms small or large?

A Ordinary sized rooms.

Q What are the moral conditions of the people in that village?

A I could not answer that question because I don't know. I will answer you frankly; I did not know my neighbor.

Q Didn't you know the people in the house with you?

A No Sir.

Q You did not mix together in the house, all the families were separate and had their separate rooms?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did they cook and eat separately?

A Yes Sir.

Q During all these years you have worked you have testified your treatment has been kind?

A Yes Sir.

Q When you had that trouble you spoke about did you see Mr. Elsas personally? The trouble you wife was connected with?

A We never seen Mr. Elsas, only he heard of the trouble and sent for my wife to come to the office.

Q And she talked of her trouble with him?

A Yes Sir, had an investigation.

Q Did you see him too?

A Yes Sir.

Q He gave you all the consideration you ought to have had at that time?

A Yes Sir.

Q Treated you kindly?

A Yes Sir.

Q Looked into the trouble and adjusted it?

A Yes Sir, told the foreman that he thought my wife

was correct about it and told the foreman he could take his choice and go back to the machine shop, or take his time.

Q Your wife is not working in the mill now?

A No Sir.

Q Why?

A She has been out since December a year ago. The superintendent of the bag mill discharged her.

Q Why was she discharged then?

A The work was slack at that time.

Q Did she have any trouble?

A No Sir.

Q Just laid off?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did she ever apply for work again?

A I don't know whether she has or not.

Q Not to your knowledge?

A No Sir.

Q What was the nature of the supplies that you got at the commissary?

A Why, we got flour, bacon, sugar, coffee and canned goods.

Q Were they all good quality?

A Sometimes they were and sometimes not.



Q Was it good plour that you got as a rule?

A The flour done fairly well, yes Sir.

Q How about the bacon?

A The bacon was not altogether as good probably as it should have been.

Q Were the goods you got of the same character that the other people got among the strikers?

A Yes Sir.

Q How many would that Local feed all told while you were at the commissary, generally speaking?

A I don't remember exactly, about 1250 I think, the highest number.

Q What was the lowest number?

A I don't know Sir.

Q How many were you feeding in September when you left?

A I could not say.

Q Do you remember how many there were when you went there to join the Union?

A No Sir.

Q When was it they were feeding 1250?

A That was sometime during the summer, right in the heat of the trouble.

Q When you got an order for a certian sum of money were you given the amount of that order?

A No Sir.

Q What happened?

A Why, they would have an excuse that they did not have the flour you called for on hand. I remember one time there was a lady passed by my home and my wife and myself were on the front porch and she was almost crying. She says, "I am going to the commissary again to make another effort to get some bacon. This is the third time I have been down there and have not been able to get any." I was present at that time. My wife told her if she did not get it to come back by there and my son-in-law was living in the house with us and furnished a lot of groceries and we had some bacon on hand which she could have. She came back without the bacon and my wife gave her what bacon we had. I told her, "I will go to the commissary and get some bacon. I am pretty sure there is some there." When I got there I found a couple of large middlings of bacon ready and I asked why it was they said they did not have any. Ollie Simpkins, one of the head clerks, said it was special instructions from Mrs. Smith.

Q In the event that you did not get all of your order when you went for your stuff, what became of the rest that you were entitled to?

A I don't know Sir.

Q Did you ever get it?

A No Sir.

Q What would be done with your order?

A I found some of the old orders after they had moved the commissary to the big field, and the evidence showed these tickets had not been filled, or properly filled.

Q Is Mrs. Smith here now?

A No Sir, I don't think so.

Q Is Mr. Miles here?

A I think not.

Q Is Mr. Fleming here?

A I think so.

Q He was the first President of the Union, wasn't he?

A I think so.

Q Then you are not clear, as to what you stated about the mills in those speeches you made, are you?

A No Sir, I am not.

Q Let me ask you once more so as to be very definite. Do you or not think that you spoke against Mr. Elsas in this meeting or not? Do you or not think so?

A I think I did.

Q Do you think now that you spoke against the mills and the conditions in them?

A Yes Sir.

Q What do you want to say about that now?

A My speeches up there were mostly based on hearsays, and I knew each morning I went up there I was expected to make a speech.

Q You fired away, did you?

A And I gathered all the news I could. Of course the news I gathered mostly was from Union people.

Q As a matter of fact were you familiar with any other part of the mills except the department you were in?

A No Sir, I was not.

Q Had you been in the weaving department?

A For a short time as you will see.

Q Were you in any of the other departments?

A I was in the spinning room for a time marking fillings.

Q You had always been treated well in the mills?

A Yes Sir.

Q What did you actually tell President Golden about the conditions when you had these conferences with him?

A I told President Golden at each conference I had with him that the conditions were worse than he really thought they were and I told him on one occasion I had found out in less than 24 hours after I got out of the mill that there was nothing like the people out of this mill

and came to me with their grievances, and when they came to me I did not know anything else but to unload them on President Golden.

Q And these complaints were about what?

A About the way they were being treated by the Local.

Q In what way?

A Some would complaint of suffering for the necessities of life, and go to the President of the Local, or Mr. Miles and Mrs. Smith, Being refused any help absolutely whatever, and asked me what to do about it and finally I agreed to take the matter up with Mr. Golden and see if he would adjust matters and help these people and the answer that come to us was something similar to this: "Unless you go to the camps you get no help." And they refused to go to the camp.

Q Do you know how many people came back into the mill after they opened up the camp?

A No Sir, I don't. I know how many would have if they had had the chance.

Q How many what?

A A good many more than what did, if they had thought they had a chance.

Q Have you ever been out to the camp since that time?

A Yes Sir, I have been to the camps about three weeks after they went into camp life.

Q How many people were out there then?

A About 250 in all.

Q Were you out in the camp again?

A About three weeks after.

Q Have you been out in the camp since that time?

A Yes Sir, once since that time.

Q When did you go there again?

A I suppose a month later, or three weeks later.

Q How many were in the camps then, do you think, to the best of your knowledge?

A Something like 300 or 325.

Q Where did this increase come from?

A I don't know.

Q Were you ever out there again?

A No Sir.

Q Did your son-in-law pay your rent for you?

A Yes Sir.

Q While you were out?

A Yes Sir.

Q When the Union did not pay it for you?

A Yes Sir.

Q You stated that they simply paid one month for

you; is that correct?

A Yes Sir, the Union paid one months rent. I worked some during this time.

Q Where did you work?

A I did some carpenter work and then I had a job of noight watchman.

Q Did you ask the Union to pay your rent?

A I did, yes Sir.

Q Did you ask for the money they promised to give?

A Yes Sir, I asked them to fulfill that contract. It was practically a contract with Miles and Mrs. Smith.

Q What did they say?

A That they could not do it, they were helpless and did not have the means to do it. Did not say why, said they were helpless. The last time I went to Mr. Miles he said, "To hell with their grievances". That is about the answer I got from him.

Q How long after Mr. Golden was here were you deposed from the presidency? Were you put out of the Presidency?

A I don't know whether I was or not.

Q How did you happen to get out?

A I had some books that were supposed to belong to the President, and <sup>I</sup> did not sent them over to the

room one day and the next day he came over and told me I was no longer President.

Q Then you went back to work in the mill?

A No Sir.

Q What did you do then?

A I went then to the Grand Opera House and got me a job as night watchman.

Q When did you get back in the mills?

A I have been back in the mills something like four or five weeks.

Q Did you make application this time and did any of the mill people see you and ask you to come back?

A No Sir, I made an application.

Q In the usual way?

A Yes Sir. I made an application not in the usual way. It was not the usual way. I wanted Mr. Elsas to understand my position and I made an application to have a conference with him.

Q You saw Mr. Elsas then?

A Yes Sir, and he gave me a conference.

Q Nothing said then about going back to work?

A After that I spoke for a job.

Q What did you tell Mr. Elsas?

A I don,t know Sir what I told him but the conference



lasted something like an hour.

Q Can't you remember anything you told him?

A No Sir, not particular.

Q What did he say to you?

A Why, Mr. Elsas seemed to be pretty sore t me  
at that time.

Q Thought you had been pretty active dad he?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did he object to your joining the Union?

A No Sir, didn't seem to. Mr. Elsas told me he  
was in favor of the Union if it was carried on the right way.

Q Told you that in that conference, did he?

A No Sir.

Q What are your wages?

A \$1.55 a day.

Q Can you live respectively upon that much per day?

A Yes Sir.

Q Have you ever had to forfeit any time in the  
mills under that contract when you quit?

A I have forfeited some. Didn't have to.

Q Did you ever get your money afterwards?

A No Sir.

Q How much did you forfeit?

A I don't remember the amount.

Q When was that?

A That has been something like four or five years ago. I could have gotten it by working notices, but at that time I thought I had a better job and I went out and left them without the notices.

Q Did you ever ask for the money afterward?

A No Sir.

Q In your department there were no fees and deductions, were there?

A No Sir.

Q You know nothing about that?

A No Sir.

that he was under the impression was out of the mill that was there the day I came out.

Q Did he make any reply to that statement?

A Only in the hot air.

Q Did he seem to believe what you stated?

A He did not seem to believe it.

Q Is there anything else that you remember you talked to him about? Did you say the conditions of the strikers were about as they had been represented?

A I told Mr. Golden at the conference which he and I had at home on Saturday, I believe; in that I told Mr. Golden then that the people as a whole had always been treated fairly well at this mill and I understand that this mill paid more wages, better wages than any other mill in the South, and that I thought that they had made a fatal mistake when they came out on strike.

Q Did you speak to him about child labor?

A No Sir.

Q What do you mean about the occurrences you talked about?

A The complaints were against the Union, or rather the way they had been treated by the Union, and these occurrences came from other people that had worked in the mill a number of years. They knew me and knew I was President of the Local

RHW" 1

ROBERT H. WRIGHT, recalled, testified:

EXAMINATION BY MR. DALY.

Q Prior to the strike of 1914 you were an exhorter in the church were you?

A Yes Sir.

Q How long did you hold that position?

A Why, some three or four years.

Q You had held meetings?

A Yes Sir.

Q As such exhorter?

A Yes Sir.

Q Are you sure that you cannot remember what went on in the public hall in those speeches of yours? What did you actually say in those speeches as to these mills? You must remember that?

A I cannot remember it.

Q Cannot remember anything today of what you said in those speeches?

A I remember in one speech referring to Mr. Oscar's morals.

Q What did you say about them?

A I said he had none. I remember in another speech that I referred to those who worked in the mill here, representing them as ante-bellum slaves.

RHW\* 2

Q What else did you say?

A I cannot recollect just now.

Q When you defamed the character of Mr. Elsas up there were you telling the truth about him?

A No Sir.

Q When you said the people that worked in the mills were ante-bellum slaves did you tell the truth?

A I was only representing them in that class of people as I said here this morning. I was making my speeches up there as spicy as I could.

Q You had worked in the mills, hadn't you?

A I had worked in the bag mill.

Q Did you consider they were in that slavish condition?

A No Sir.

Q Then what you stated then was spice thrown in, was that the idea?

A Yes Sir.

Q What you stated about the strikes in your testimony this morning, is that spice or actual facts?

A I am under oath now.

Q Then that is true is it?

A Yes Sir, that is true.

Q Mr. Elsas had always treated you kindly, had he?

A Yes Sir.

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making speeches against the mill.

Q Had you?

A No Sir, I had not. I told him I did not think a respectable woman would do that.

Q You were discharged before he came back?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did he say who said so?

A He did not.

Q Did he say it was because you belonged to the Union?

A He didn't say. I was only laidoff, they did not say it was a straight out discharge and never did send for me anymore.

Q When was that?

A This last Christmas Eve day a year ago.

Q There were a great many being laid off at that time were there?

A Yes Sir..

Q Do you remember who was laid off?

A There was only one woman from the department where I was.

Q In what department were you?

A The printing department.

Q Were these people you knew about being laidoff all members of the Union?

ROBERT H. WRIGHT, recalled, testified: (At his own request.)

EXAMINATION BY MR. DALY.

Q What is it you would like to state?

A If this investigation is to give both sides and to give out facts it seems yesterday there was some doubt raised in your mind about my sincerity in the statements I had made from the mere fact I had made speeches in the hall directly to the contrary of what I was making here under oath, and my being in the employ of the company at the present time may have had something to do with this doubt on your mind. Now, in order to relieve you of that doubt or help to relieve you of it I have some letters from a friend of mine in Philadelphia, Pa. I wish to read to you.

Q What subject do they bear upon?

A On the morality of that strike.

Q Would they put you in any better shape?

A I think so; they would show to you that my feelings in the matter have been changed. I would like to make this further statement and put it on record.

Note: Mr. Wright desired to produce letters from Mr. Preston Story of Philadelphia, bearing upon conditions surrounding the strike. He is permitted to make a statement without producing the letters.

Q What is your statement now, Mr. Wright?

A In reading over the letter last night it brought it to my mind. On three occasions Preston and myself were over at the camp and found Mr. Miles under the influence of intoxicants. I also found him on the street above the station one afternoon so drunk he could not walk straight, and at the meeting I held at the church I brought this to Mr. Golden's attention myself and had witnesses in the building to prove it that had also seen it and Mr. Golden made this statement to me that if every man in the city of Atlanta was to tell him that Mr. Miles had been drunk in the streets of Atlanta or anywhere else he would not believe it, and thus I was helpless, of course, because I could not get all of the city of Atlanta to prove it.

Q Why did you tell Mr. Golden this?

A At the church, before the meeting.

Q Did Mr. Golden give you an opportunity to put in your whole case at the church?

A No Sir.

Q What happened?

A He brought me there (indicating) and made the remark if every man in the city of Atlanta was to tell him



Miles was under the influence of whiskey he would refuse to believe it.

Q You wanted the strike conducted on a moral basis?

A Yes Sir.

Q And in a proper manner?

A Yes Sir.

Q You laid these plans before Mr. Golden in the church at the meeting while Mr. Golden was present?

A Yes Sir, I told Mr. Golden also at the same meeting that Mrs. Smith was not a fit woman to lead the strike. Afterwards it was proven that she was not.

Q Had you ever been in connection with anybody from the mill? Were you asked to do that by anybody from the mill?

A Yes Sir.

Q This was your own free judgment was it?

A Yes Sir.

Q Is that the night you spoke about yesterday when the meeting was adjourned without you being able to get further testimony to Mr. Golden and others along that line?

A Yes Sir.

Q How long after that was it when you returned removed from the presidency of the Union?

A Three weeks.

Q Do you know why you were put out?

A No Sir.

Q Were any charges brought against you?

A No Sir.

Q For how long was the president elected?

A An indefinite time I think; didn't specify any time.

Q Do you know whether Preston is a detective or not?

A I donot; I know he was accused of being a detective.

Q Who accused him?

A Odell, Fleming, Mullinax.

Q Did Preston ever tell you he was a detective?

A No Sir, he said he was out here for his health.

Q Did Preston ever say that he saw me?

A No Sir.

Q Is that all you want to say?

A I wuld like to state about Mrs. Smith's morals.

Q Do you know anything about her morals of your own knowledge?

A I do from her husband's testimony in Court.

Q When did you hear that?

A Sometime back, a couple of months.

Q Were you up there and heard him testify in court?

A Yes Sir, I was a witness in the case.

Q Was was the date of that case?

A I don't remember.

Q A divorce case, was it?

A No Sir, he was trying to drive one of the strikers from his home.

Q Which one?

A Callahan, the one that got stabbed.

Q Who stabbed him?

A One of the strikers in the camp.

Q What did he say about his wife?

A Mr. Smith's statement on the stand was that when Callahan was stabbed he was brought to his home over his objection by his wife and was taken care of until his wound grew up and after his wound grew up he told him, he says, "Callahan, you are a big, stout, able-bodied young man and I would like for you to get out and get you a job, for I don't feel able to support a man that is as able to work as you are." He says, "If you can't get a job I will get one for you." He said Callahan's remark was he didn't need any of his damned advice.

Q Did Callahan remain there after that?

A Yes Sir, he remained there. Then he taken the situation up with Mrs. Smith, his wife and this statement was made on the stand that his wife gave him pretty much the same answer, and instead of Callahan leaving he left himself. Then was the leaders we had in this strike.

Q That is what you objected to, that kind of business, was it?

A Yes Sir, the morals going on under the strike I objected to. I want to state further that in my personal hearing Mrs. Smith has lied on the company time and again, numerous times. I don't say this because I am in the employ of the company.

Q You are saying this of your own knowledge?

A Yes Sir, because I feel like I am due this at this investigation. You ought to know facts. If I understand it right, this investigation is for that purpose, to get the facts. This was an immoral strike from start to finish. Mrs. Smith got a rake-off from Fain & Stamps on the grocery bill. She paid for her home on Arizona Avenue. I could not say that positively, but I am sure of it.

Q You testified yesterday how the orders were handled.

A Yes Sir, and I want to state further than that that you can get facts from H. C. Gober if you will go about it right, if you don't let him know who you are. On one occasion he was called up at 2 o'clock at night to go to the German Cafe. When he got there he found --

Q Were you there?

A I was not.

Q How do you know it?

A I got it from Gober himself.