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MRS. JENNIE CLINTON, sworn, testified:

EXAMINATION BY MR. DALY.

Q Where do you live?

A 15 Berean Ave.

Q That is not in the mill village, is it?

A No Sir.

Q Have you ever worked in the Fulton Bag Mills?

A Ever since I was 13 years old.

Q How old are you now?

A Twenty-nine going on thirty.

Q Have you ever worked in any other mills?

A Not but one, and that was last September I went over to South Carolina and stayed until Christmas.

Q Did you ever work at the Exposition Mills?

A I worked at the Exposition Mills three weeks last summer during the Fulton Bag strike.

Q Were you one of the 76 to go out?

A Yes Sir.

Q Do you remember the day on which the strike occurred?

A Yes Sir, the 20th day of May.

Q Do you know how many went out that day?

A No Sir I can't say, not very many. Not over 85 or 90 at most. I was excited so I do not hardly think I could give the exact number. In fact I do not know

them all. I knew the ones that came out of the first mill over here, but the other mill I did not know.

Q What were you excited about?

A I did not want to go out and I was afraid to stay in. I had no cause for going out. I have always been treated as if I belonged to the mill. I have been treated like a child by this company.

Q Did anybody threaten you?

A They told me I better go out or I might get beat to death.

Q Who told you that?

A Why Mr. Herbert Mullinax and Joe Ware, but I had the remark made to me by several whose names I do not remember now. In fact I know it was made lots of times, because I tossed all night before. I was scared, I would not go out. I was excited.

Q Where were you when they went out?

A At Union Hall.

Q Were you there when they voted to go out?

A Yes Sir. I was one of the three black balls that voted against it.

Q Who were the others?

A Henry Williams and J. S. Stowers.

Q Was it known at that meeting you had voted against

the strike?

A No Sir, but we kept a book of that long strike before the meeting closed. Then we put it up as a vote. We began to protest against it you know.

Q What reasons did they give that night for calling this strike?

A They wanted to do away with this time rule they called it.

Q What else?

A Longhours.

Q What else?

A This way of forfeiting moeny. Of course that included the whole work. That was all the reason I understood. Of course they would get up and speak lots of reasons I did not pay any attention to.

Q Did they mention anything about the sanitary conditions at the village?

A Yes Sir, they said it was a cow lot; that we had to clean out the cow lot.

Q Was the reason that any one man had been discharged spoken about?

A Yes Sir, that is the reason. They wanted those that had been discharged put back to work.

Q That was their main reason?

A That was their main reason for striking; then they wanted to wait until September to strike but there had been so many discharged until they just decided to strike then.

Q Do you know of your own knowledge whether many people had been discharged or not?

A Yes , I know of several that had but it seemed it wasn't because they belonged to the Union. They were just poor help.

Q Were there others that you thought were discharged because they belonged to the Union?

A I thought so, but I did not know that positively. I cannot swear positively; but there were one or two that were good people, good workmen. I mean I do not know what they had done; but the biggest majority were sorry help.

Q You went out and joined the Union did you?

A Yes Sir.

Q Were you a member of the Union before you went out?

A Yes Sir, ten days.

Q How long did you stay out?

A Well, I can't say exactly the day, but I remember drawing my pay in July.

Q When did you come back?

A I went back in July for the last of June.  
I think it was the last of June.

Q Did the strikers threaten you when you went back to work?

A Yes Sir, they were going to have me arrested if I didnot quit this job and go away from town by the next morning.

Q Who told you that?

A I understand President Miles, their great President, said so, while Will Sweatt is the one that sent me the threatening word.

Q By whom?

A By Lula Williams and Herbert Mullinax and Mary Mullinax. There was one incident that occurred that night that I will tell you of, and still I would tell it in Court if it became necessary, but after I understood they were going to have me arrested my temper would not let me stand it and I went to Mullinax's house and I started to tell all of them what they were. He said, "You ought to be ashamed to go to work". I said, "I have called you all things that you should not take. If there is one of you that can have me arrested and stop me from making a living just go and do it. I can whip the whole push of you, there is nothing but hot

air to any of you." Right there on the street.

Q Then you went to work?

A Yes Sir, certainly did.

Q Have they threatened you?

A No Sir, because I don't belong to them. Didn't do it until this day.

Q Is your husband living?

A Yes Sir.

Q Where?

A He is right here in the mill.

Q Have you a family?

A Only myself and husband.

Q You worked at the Exposition Cotton Mills last summer three weeks?

A Yes Sir, it wasn't quite three weeks.

Q Where did you work?

A In the weave room.

Q Where did you work here?

A As smash hand.

Q How did the conditions at the Exposition Mills compare with these?

A Not half as good as these. The work is not good and the sanitary conditions are not good and the <sup>and</sup> hours is splendid here and kept in first rate order. The floors

and dressing and toilet rooms are scrubbed each day and cleaned up nicely and we have a nice place to wash and dress and put our clothing and pure water to drink and that is always fresh and pure and we have two nice running hydrants in our dressing rooms and our floors we walk over are being scrubbed twice every day; they go over one time and just turned and go right back and they are being scrubbed and kept perfectly clean and dry and in good order.

Q When you quit in this mill did you have any money coming to you?

A Yes Sir, I had one week lacking one day, and Shriners' week they gave us two days holiday.

Q Were you paid your money?

A No Sir.

Q Did you ever get it?

A No Sir, I got two days, two hours and three-fourths.

Q How much would that have been?

A \$3.30. That is what I drew and I had \$7.40 from the week before.

Q The amount of money that was still due?

A \$7.40 was all that was due me. Mr. Florence gave me \$2.00 on the last week.

Q Then I understand you all got your money.

Q No Sir, the week before I did not get that.

That was forfeited..

Q When you went out without working your notice?

A Yes Sir. And you know when we go to work we sign an agreement to work a notice and if we don't our time is forfeited and so we everyone knew this before we walked out, and I did not have sense enough to think that morning because I was scared. In fact I would never have gone out if I had had the knowledge that I have today.

Q Let me ask you about wages at the Exposition Mills.

A I did not get but \$1.10 and \$1.20.

Q Why did you quit over there, Jennie?

A I did not stay. I did not like the work. I did not like the wages. I did not like the sanitary conditions. I did not like the place there. I am not satisfied at any place only right here.

Q When you applied for work here, after you concluded to give up the striking business, did you have any trouble in getting in?

A No Sir, I just walked in and asked Mr. Johnstone could I get work and told him I was ashamed of the way I had done. I acknowledged I had been misled, over-persuaded. He says, "Why, yes, Jennie, you can go back to work if you want to; we believe you were over-persuaded."

Q Did he ask you anything about why you joined the Union?



A No Sir, I never have been asked any questions. I just told them I was willing to give it up.

Q He made no objections to your giving up the Union or keeping in the Union?

A No Sir, never said a word about the Union, against or for. Did not ask anything about their business or what they done or anything. Just told me to go to work, just go to work as I had always done. I told him I certainly would show how I appreciated my job by doing everything I could do.

Q You are perfectly satisfied?

A Yes Sir, I am. I am happy. I will stay here until I die. I am at home and hppe for a good living. I had to get away a day or two for a vacation, a week or two to rest. I never have been scared I can't make an honest living here.

Q Have you had any experience with fines?

A Never was deducted a penny in my life, Never had them to look up the work I done. Never have been fined one penny.

Q You don't live in the mill village?

A No Sir.

Q Did you ever live there?

A Yes Sir, I did a long time ago live there.

I can't bring to memory how long it has been, but eight or ten years ago I was in the mill village. I boarded in the mill village and then I kept house, had a couple of rooms in the mill village.

Q A great many people live in the mill village, don't they?

A You know there is some people in public works that you can't make keep clean, if you went over them with a broom. But the majority of them is good, clean hard working people.

Q Do they keep the houses clean now?

A Yes Sir, very nice. The sanitary conditions is very nice there. We have new sanitary conditions and all. But they were alright before, as far as I know. I never saw anything wrong with them before.

Q Have you ever seen anybody taken sick in the mill here?

A Yes Sir.

Q What did they do with you? Did they take you out and do anything for you, offer to take you to the Wesley House?

A I went there once; a nurse carried me home, gave me medicine and stayed with me until I got well; visited me each day. Our little doctor at the office is always

kind and good and will lend his assistance.

Q Who is that, Dr. Hawkins?

A Yes Sir.

Q Does he treat you when there is anything the matter?

A He does anything he can. If you are real sick they carry you to the Wesley House and give you all sorts of attention. It is your fault if you don't get it.

Q Q How far is the Wesley House?

A Not a block. It is right in the corner of the mill village. They feed us down there for only 10¢ a day if there is any who want to take their meals there;

Q Do you do that now?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did you before the strike?

A Yes Sir, I taken my meals there four years ago just like I do now.

Q They furnish you a meal for 10¢?

A Yes Sir, and it is nice.

Q What do you get for that?

A One day we get stewed beef, Irish potatoes, cake, loaf bread, cheese, coffee with sugar and cream in it just as much as anyone can eat. Then each day it is changed. Next day, beans, potatoes, soup, English peas, cake and coffee.

Q Are there many people there?

A Sometimes it looks like 200 people, it is som full there. Then again it is not so many. They vary, they come and go.

Q They cook every day?

A Yes Sir, every day.

Q You have a right to go there and get a 10g luncheon?

A Oh yes, go there, and if you want any more coffee you ask for it and they give you all the coffee you can drink and all the food you want for only 10g. That has been five years to my own knowledge. I can think back that far when I taken meals there, did for dinner.

Q Do you know Mr. Mullinax?

A Yes Sir, I know him well. I know him because he was a member of the executive committee when he worked in the mill.

Q Is he a good workman?

A No Sir, he is not. He is a sorry man and a sorry workman. That is why he was discharged because he was poor help, very poor.

Q He says he was a very fine workman.

A Well, he is certainly not, neither is Fleming, because I was chiefly having to report them because I went right behind the work he does and when he is sick

it makes my work very hard on me.

Q Who is in the mill in your department that would report to the office a thing to be docked, or anything of the kind that went on down there among the help? Was there any such people among the help they reported?

A No Sir indeed. There is a nice class of help, has been ever since the strike.

Q Any spies around through the mill do you know?

A No Sir, I don't know. There were some.

Q When were they there? During the strike times?

A Yes Sir, and I think there has been one or two since then, but they just acted easy sort of, they did not stay long. Some quit of their own accord.

Q You mean the spies for the strikers?

A Yes Sir, the spies for the strikers. Trying to keep out disturbances. We have splendid men to work for. Our overseers is just fine.

Q Who is your overseer?

A A. L. Burt is overseer. Mr. Rogers is superintendent, Edward Malone is second hand and R. A. Adams is second hand. They are perfect gentlemen to work for; they treat us with all respect men could, and when we go to them for anything they are kind and gentle in every way. I was thinking about it last night. I forget

things. I made little notes of it, and if you don't object, as I think of them, just a word or two, it reminds me of it.

Q You may make your own statement.

A One was the statement Mr. Miles, President Miles made to us in the hall one day, to ~~be~~ ~~get~~ them out, persuaded them out if we could, and if we could not get them out that way to take sticks and beat them out. And another is in the way they told us to make money. He said one day there was a Jew, or a German, I don't remember which, I think it was a Jew, come across from the old country, and the old man come and got rich and went back wealthy, and so he sends one of his sons across the waters to get rich and when he started he says, "Son, I want you to make money in America. You can make money there. Be honest if you can, but make money. If you can't be honest and respectful, why make money." He says, "Girls, you do all you can. Boys, you do all you can to make money." But I never did understand the meaning of what he meant unless she was in a disreputable way, for not a girl could make a penny outside of her job. I think if she ever received a penny it was not in a respectable way. They agreed to give us \$4.00 a week from the American Federation of Labor and

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this Local 886 agreed to give us \$3.00 a week. I never received one penny, nor never has any of the rest that I know of, unless it was these Mullinaxes. They might have got money, but the strikers never did see one penny. They agreed to keep up my insurance. My insurance died. I had to take out more since I have been at work, before we went back. We got an order for \$1.50 worth on Tuesday. They would give a little 12 pound sack of flour just about this size (indicating), a small sack of sugar, about a handful of potatoes, a box of snuff for those that used it and a little piece of meat. That was the \$1.50; then you could not get any more until Friday. On Friday you could not get any meat but you could get a little lard and a little sack of meal, a small cabbage and some more Irish potatoes and a can of peas, and that was that \$1.50. Now show me where they were going to get the clothes. We were never offered one rag of clothes nor a shoe nor anything else. I boarded; my husband was in South Carolina and Mrs. Smith would get up in the hall and tell us to watch out for thugs and my way of understanding what thugs were -- she said she always went with a body guard; she carried two of these Union boys all the time.

Q Was your rent paid?

A I don't know. She said they were her body guard. She said her life was in danger and so was ours. Said if Mr. Elsas' people ever got us out we would be thugged.

What I understood are thugs -- she explained what they were, hired men of Mr. Elsas to knock us in the head and get shed of us, get us out of their way. And also I think, well I know, Mrs. Smith carried a concealed weapon all the time; on Mr. Elsas' property as well as other people's property. She carried it in her hand bag like that (indicating). I did not see the gun, she said she had it. I saw the print of it. I could have saw it if I wanted to, She said for us to go to work at the pants factories. Said we could make plenty.

I worked there one day and I made 30¢.

Q Where was that?

A At Marcus Loeb's. I made 30¢ in one day, but my board is \$5.50 a week. Now in the world could I pay board. When I came back to work I did not have money to have my trunk moved. I came down and asked Mr. Johnstone, the general manager of the mill, would he please send and get my trunk.. He told me he certainly would. He was just as kind and good to me as he could be. Mr. Johnstone is a perfect gentleman and kind. He sent and got my trunk and never charged me a penny off



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my ticket at all. I never came to the company for a favor at all that they never did grant me. All the favors I asked I got. They will treat anyone on earth nice and right if they will half-way do right. The night before we struck on Tuesday there was a man by the name of Munday, a loom fixer, Joe Ware, Herbert Mullinax, Fleming, Rosie Freeman and Mack Carson. I told them in the hall I wasn't going to strike, I had nothing to strike for. I had always been treated right; had got what I worked for. I had nothing to strike for and I was not going out. These people followed me to my home and stayed until 2 o'clock in the morning and told me if I did not come out I was liable to be beat half to death. They did not say who would do it; and said I would never be respected after that anyhow and I would have no principle and none of them would ever speak to me, so the day we did strike I did not know what to do; but when I began to decide I did not know what I had to strike for for the rules sustained me.. I always worked under them. I had not found a thing in the world wrong with them. Anybody who wants to do right and obey the rules exactly don't worry you. As far as these gates being locked I think that is a great thing. If they had not been I think we would be hindered every minute of the day by someone. We would not have time to work.

I am in favor of the gates being locked because that keeps us from being bothered. We cannot keep our mill nice and clean and be disturbed. If we wanted to get out we would have to ask the overseer and he always gave us a pass out.

Q If you were taken sick every week and had not drawn your pay, how would you get your money?

A They bring it to me. The amount has been brought to me. I was taken sick on Monday and stayed sick all the week and Dr. Hawkins went out there, would come around a day or two a week, and when Saturday came Dr. Hawkins brought my money. He would not let anybody else have it but would see that I received it myself.

Q If you needed money before Saturday how would you do?

A I never did go to the mill and ask for it, but I got it. Then I asked for \$5.00 and Mr. Florence gave it to me down at the office; but I never experienced that but once.

Q Did you personally ask for that other?

A Yes Sir.

Q Who gave it to you?

A Mr. Florence. He never charged me any interest at all.

Q He loaned it to you then?

A Yes Sir, he loaned it to me, didn't give it to me. Of course it was taken out of my ticket. The ticket was not due until Saturday and that was on Tuesday. He loaned it to me, never charged any interest. That Saturday I offered him interest. I offered him 25¢ until Saturday and he says, "No, no, we don't do business that way"; but I would have gladly given 50¢ then for the \$3;00 because I needed it very bad for medicine and things.

Q Doyou know Mr. Frank Odell?

A Yes Sir, I know him very well.

Q How long have you known him?

A About fourteen years.

Q Do you know what his reputation is?

A He has a very bad one.

Q For what?

A For insulting his sister-in-law. He insulted his sister-in-law one night and was discharged the next morning as soon as he went to work.

Q Was that the cause of his discharge from this mill?

A Yes Sir, Mr. Elsas don't approve of anything like that. He wants moral people in his work, an his place of business. His conduct soon became known the

next morning and he was discharged. He certainly cannot get work here anymore to my knowledge, because I have known of him trying to get work since. Mr. Elsas don't want a man of that character.

I don't know of any immoral people at all in the mill now, but before the strike I knew of several. I think when the strike come it cleaned them out.

Q There are a great many people going through the mill and around there from time to time?

A They will come in and stay a few days or a week and go that is the way throughout all cotton mills I ever heard of.

Q Why do you think that is?

A Well, there is some people I don't think would be satisfied if they had a home in heaven; They would want to change places all the time. It seems like that is the way of cotton mill people. They will come here to stay and will get off and perhaps in two months they are right back here for a job again, and when they come back they say, "Oh, I would not leave the Fulton Mill for any job I ever had. I know of some people in South Carolina that told me that when I was over there that if they were just back at the Fulton Mill they would never leave again while they lived.

Q Did you know Minnie Ware and her mother?

A Yes Sir.

Q What kind of people are they?

A Very sorry people. Minnie Ware done things that are for married women and not single, right after the strike.

Q Did you know about her before the strike?

A Yes Sir, her sister was a kind of a sorry girl, and the whole family of them are. you would hear slighting remarks on all sides. I know when ever they got on the streets these girls would curse like men and used profane language.

Q Did they work in your department?

A Yes Sir, two of them did, Joe Ware and Clara both worked in my department.

Q How did they conduct themselves?

A As long as the overseer was not seeing them and they knew the overseer would not hear or see there was very bad conduct the girl did; talk that I did not approve of. But of course the Ware boy never cursed in my presence.

Q When did you begin work in the mill -,how old were you?

A I was going on fourteen years old; I was thirteen.

Q Did you go to school before that time?

A Yes Sir, and have been to school since at night.

When I would be off on vacation I went to school.

Q Where did you go at night?

A It was a little shorthand and literary school that Mr. Mallison run up there on Decatur Street just this side of Butler Street. His wife run a millinery store and he taught shorthand at night. I had the privilege of going to the Wesley's House to school; I was acquainted with those people; I was not with the Wesley House then, I was bashful and decided to go where I knew the people and they knew me. I got as far advanced as the eighth grade in that way. I had the opportunity of going to school some, but I liked work better than I did school.

Q Did you know the condition in which the Ware girl was before she was dispossessed?

A No Sir, because she wore clothing in a way you could not tell.

Q She was confined, wasn't she?

A Yes Sir.

Q Do you know whether or not she had been confined before she had been put out of the house?

A No Sir, I do not. They say the Wares tried to live in the house claiming that wasn't it. If it was I don't know. She was sick two weeks before she was ever

made to move. Nobody could have got well in that length of time. She was sick perhaps one week before they were ever asked to move. Dr. Garrett claims that was what was the matter; states it was a seven months child, not hardly that long; but she was the last one of the people that were put out of these houses. They were the last family that was asked to moved, or advised to move.

Q Do you know the families that moved into the house now?

A No Sir, I do not. I am not so well acquainted with the people that live there now.

Q When you did return in July was the room in which you worked last winter at work?

A It certainly was. It was not when I went out, but when we came back we had a complete set of help.

Q Was there much new help among them?

A Part of them was new and part was the same old help. All the old help was glad to see me and I was glad to see them.

Q How many of the old help are in there now that were there then? That went out with you on that day?

A There is but very few. There is not but two in the new mill that I know of.

Q How many people worked in there all told?

A I could not tell you.

Q Thirty?

A There is more than that.

Q Fifty?

A Yes Sir, at least fifty to the room, I suppose.

By taking it one at a time I can count every loom and count the amount of people. Well there is eleven hundred looms, and each has a twenty loom set. The biggest majority has a twenty loom set. There is one hundred looms that has a ten loom set, ten looms to the operator, and then the rest has twenty looms to the set. That would make about fifty-five weavers. We have seven loom fixers in the lower department and five loom fixers in No. 2 room; two loom fixers in the annex and myself and another girl; two smash hands and two swabbers to each room; four men to blow off and keep the work clean to each room down stairs.

Q In all that number there are not over two or three that came back?

A Yes Sir, and there is not over twenty newmen but what were in there when we came out. There is not over twenty new hands, All of the officers and all of the weavers is just like we had them on that same work I don't think in the whole mill there was over 80 that struck the 20th day of May. I am confident there was not because I stayed out there and watched them every one come out.



The big crowd was on the outside.

Q Was there any great noise carried on by them when they came out?

A Yes Sir, screaming and hollering and throwing off on the Fulton Bag Company. Mr. Fleming come out of the mill in the street and whooped and hollered and waved his hat in his hand and announced that next day they would parade. As they passed the Wesley House they would holler "Butterbeans, soup and crackers".

Q Did you parade?

A One time. I did not know what the parade meant until they got us up there.

Q Did you go up there through the city?

A No Sir.

Q Did you take part in the parade that went through the city?

A No Sir.

Q Did you see it?

A Yes Sir.

Q You were not in it?

A No Sir.

Q Could you tell how many actual strikers were in that parade?

A No Sir, I couldnot, because there were lots of other eople there and they all mixed and mingled and

I could not tell who were strikers and who were not. But the biggest majority were outside people who had never saw inside of this Fulton Mill; people that thought they could live without work, and be fed.

Q On the night before the strike in the hall, when a vote was taken, how many people were in that room that night do you know?

A They claimed there was five hundred.

Q How many of those were actually working in the mill do you think?

A Most every one that went there.

Q There were numbers of people that worked in the mill who did not go out the next day?

A Yes Sir. Seeing that crowd was the main thing that helped get me out. I thought they were all going out and I felt I would be left by myself almost.

Q There were people that did not go out?

A Yes Sir, just lots of them, more than what did go out.

Q Did they leave the Union those that did not go out?

A Part of them did, and so they all finally done just like I did. Just a lot did quit right after they saw what it was. They had met thinking that the Union was alright; but if that is Union I don't want any more of it,

for it will not do to live by nor die by either. It is a graft, or robbing machine one.

Q Do you know whether any machinery was spoiled in the mill by the strikers at that time?

A No Sir, there was a window light broken out.

Q No machinery broken or spoiled?

A No Sir, not that I ever heard of. There was not in our department.

Q Was there any swearing?

A No Sir, not that I know of. If they did I don't know anything about it. I know our work now is running smooth and nicely. Just as nice as it could be; seems everybody is happy and perfectly willing to stay with their work. It just now seems like old times to me.

Q Do you talk with any of the strikers?

A No Sir, I won't speak to them.

Q Do you know any of them?

A Yes Sir, I knew them every one.

Q Why don't you speak to them?

A Well, I just think I am a little bit too good to, the way they acted, because I do know I am a lady. My mother and father raised me as that and from the way they act I don't think they are because they walk the streets. They stop with men under these viaducts and stand

and talk to them until after 12 o'clock at night, and I don't think that is respectable in a woman.

Q Do the pickets bother you now?

A No Sir, they don't bother me, they have not since my husband came home. When this strike come up I wrote to him and told him not to come home. Everything was mixed so I did not want him complicated in it at all.

Q Did the pickets bother you before?

A Why, they sent me threats and I would see them stand on the corner. I would not try to walk fast and would not try to run because I was prepared to meet them if they did bother me. They sent me word what they would do for me if they catched me under the viaduct, but I walked very slow when I would go that way and they never put hands on me. They were just like Mr. Mullinax and all the rest of them I found, Mr. Odell too, they were just hot air. But those Carson girls, they are well known in the police record. There is never a Saturday night they are not standing under the lower viaduct until 12 o'clock at night with Union boys. They visit that Union dance hall, but I don't know what they do there, I have just heard.

Q You don't know of your own knowledge?

A No Sir, of my own knowledge I do not. That is just hearsay.

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