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W. C. SWEATT, sworn, testified:

EXAMINATION BY MR. DALY.

Q How long were you in the employ of the Fulton Mill?

A Something like between four and a half and five years.

Q When did you quit there?

A The last time I quit was the 13th of June, 1914.

Q How many times did you quit while you were working there?

A I never quit but twice since I went with the company.

Q Did you give the usual notice every time?

A Yes Sir, it was plumb satisfactory.

Q You worked out your notice?

A Worked out my notice.

Q Got all your money?

A Got all my money.

Q Why did you quit the last time?

A Well, my intention being -- Beck & Gregg -- we were on a trade and I was intentioned to go to work for the Beck & Gregg Hardware Company.

Q Did anybody ever hold any inducements out to you to join Local 886?

A Yes Sir.

Q Who did that?

A Well, at the first, before ever I put in my notice,

but now understand by me quitting the mill wasn't by the influence of the Union. Before I quit the mill there was a crowd come to my house one night and got after me to quit the mill. I told them I could not do it until I could get me a job to go to and I says "more than that, the Fulton Bag Mills is treating me alright, I am making good wages down there and getting along alright and I don't care to quit the Fulton Bag", "Oh," they says, "We want such men as you to come down there." I says, "I can't do it. Look at my circumstances here at home. I have got an invalid wife with a young baby born in my home September 4th and she has been nearly an invalid ever since," and they says, "That don't make any difference at all about what your welfare is you come and your expenses, we don't care what it is, doctor bill, ice bill, house rent and expenses, your expenses will be paid you."

Q By whom?

A There was no limit to it.

Q Who was going to pay those expenses?

A That was the Local No. 886. I says, "Well now, gentlemen, my expenses is pretty high. It takes about all I can make to meet my expenses."

Q What were you getting?

A From \$15.00 to \$18.00 a week.

Q What did y uie in the mill?

A I used to be Mr. Elsas' overhauling and I used to be the special officer.

Q Are you employed by the mill at all now?

A No Sir, not at all.

Q Who are you working for now?

A The City of Atlanta in the employ of Grant Park.

Q Did you see Mrs. Convoy, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Miles?

A Yes Sir.

Q Were they the ones that held out the inducements to you to quit work?

A I believe it was the Monday morning after I quit the mill on Saturday I struck up with two of the boys and they told me to go on up to the hall. I was going up to see Beck & Gregg and we went to the hall and I met Miles then, the first time I ever met him. I had seen him one time before but that was the first time ever to be acquainted with him. He says, "Well, I reckon you are going to join us this morning". I says, "I guess I am." He says, "We want you to join us", and we talked on matters there about the different advantages as a Union affair, something like that, and I told him my circumstances and he says, "Well, we would take care of you and your little wife, we will lay out the expenses of everything"; and

I joined the Union and became a member and I think the third day after I became a member they elected me acting President and so I had a little money. My wife has the diabetes, and you know she has got to eat special food such as fowl and fishes and can't eat nothing sweet, no kind of corn bread, biscuit bread nor nothing like that and I had all that to buy. I went to them and told them, "I can't keep this job here because I have got to get out and get me a job to make money to buy sufficient food for my wife; I can't let her suffer under any circumstances." They said, "Oh well, we will take care of your little wife, we will buy any kind of food that is needed for her."

Q Did they do it?

A No Sir.

Q Did they furnish you anything?

A So we went on and Miles and Mrs. Conroy and Mrs. Keller had done reached Atlanta. In a few days after I became a member of the Local they came. I laid the complaint up to them and they went into a conference and they got Miles to ask me, He says, "You know the condition of our great strike, our fight and all we are in; what would be the least amount that you could make out on buying knickknacks for your wife?" Like that. I says, "Well, \$4.00 is as little as we could do on a week. Of

course rations was furnished for me to eat and as far as it was concerned I could get them out of the commissary; but they went into a conference, Miles and Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Convoy and Mrs. Keller, and agreed to pay me \$4.00 a week over and above my expenses. That was to get the food for my wife that she had to have. He says, "We now have agreed to pay you \$4.00 for you to stay on as President of our Local. We want you to stay here; you have got good influence, you are a good man, we want a man like you at the head of it, and we will give you \$4.00 a week for your wife and whatever you want for your wife we will put it in the commissary and you can get it out and carry it on home."

Q Was any of that agreement carried out?

A I was going to tell you how it happened. A week went on and I got nothing. I bore it, I had a little money to go on myself; I did not want to get plumb stripped of it because circumstances were pretty hard and I went to him and called on him and he gave me \$3.00 I think it was \$2.00 or \$3.00. They have got a receipt back of all of it, and the next week I got nothing. The next week I called on them again and got \$2.00. The next I got, I think it was \$3.00 or something like that. They stuck out a week. In a week or two I jumped on them

again and Mr. Miles gave me \$4.00, and at that time Golden had arrived. You know who Golden is. He arrived and so I asked Miles about my little extra money. He said Mr. Golden had out all that out and I could not get any more. I says, "I have got to get me a job. That is all there is to it," and I was just down and out, and when I was down and out, I was down and out. I had give up a job but I put out and got me a job. There was little difficulty in my getting a job. Times were hard and jobs were scarce in Atlanta.

Q Let me ask you. Did you ask anybody for a job whp objected to giving you one because you were a member of the Union?

A No Sir, not one.

Q You got a job did you?

A I got a little one that lasted two weeks.

Q You quit the acting presidency of the Union?

A Yes Sir, quit it some time after.

Q While you were acting president of the Union how many people would attend the services of this Union?

A Why, it would run I suppose from -- I would make it on an average a couple of hundred people. A big crowd.

Q Do you know how many of the members of the Union were those that came out of these mills on strike at that time?

A Well, I suppose that is where they got a little huffed at me. I told them, in fact, when I taken the president's seat, that would call for new members. They just flocked up and joined..

Q Would you keep a record of the newmembers that came out of the mill?

A I was going to tell you. They would swear them in. Numbers of people would come to me and say, "Sweatt, that fellow never worked in a cotton mill in his life. That woman there is an old whore. That fellow there is a carpenter or tinker or something like that." All kinds come in. I just told them, "You can't bring out any good results in that way, taking in such people as that." I appointed a committee to investigate these people and they appointed a committee and called for new members that come up and this committee would take them out in a room and try them and see where they came from and sometimes we would get a member and sometimes we would not.

Q Then after that you would not take in everybody that came along?

A No Sir.

Q While you were there as president that six weeks how many people joined the Union that had come from the mills?

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A I could not tell you?

Q Did any?

A I could not tell you.

Q Getting back to what you said Mr. Miles paid you, how much more money did you get from the Union than what he paid you, orders or money?

A Every member was allowed two orders a week in the commissary.

Q That represented how much money?

A \$3.00, \$1.50 per order, and you could carry the order to the commissary. Whether you wanted a quarter or seventy-five cents worth of something you would take the order down there and have it O. K.'d and draw what you wanted on the order and keep it until the next day if you wanted to.

Q Did you always get the whole amount due on that order?

A No Sir, some weeks I would not get more than one order.

Q When you got an order would they give you the full value for that order out of the commissary?

A Yes Sir, a \$1.50 order, pretty good value.

Q There were no times when you got less than \$1.50?

A No Sir, I don't know that there were.

Q Were the goods alright?

A Yes Sir, they were alright.

Q Did you or your wife cash the orders?

A There was not any cash to them?

Q I mean get the orders.

A I would get them. My wife wasn't able.

Q How you observed the health, did you, of the people that were members of the Union? What was their general appearance?

A The Union people?

Q Yes.

A They were rough.

Q Were there many sick among them?

A No Sir, we did not have very many sick.

Q Were there many little children?

A I think there was an age limit to get into the Union. I don,t think they allowed children to get into the Union, nothing like that. In fact, they were not allowed to visit the hall under twelve years or something like that. Only little babies were allowed to go in with their mothers.

Q Was there any disorder in your Union while you were President?

A Of course there was some trouble that occurred

around among the boys. Some of the boys got locked up.

Q Were there any arrests?

A Yes Sir.

Q Do you know how many?

A No Sir.

Q Any serious crimes committed, assault and battery?

A No Sir, there wasn't any shooting. Some trouble though, I think some one got knocked in the head, something like that.

Q How would those troubles arise?

A I don't know Sir.

Q Did you have charge of the picket line at any time?

A No Sir.

Q Who appointed the pickets? Did you?

A Non Sir, Mrs. Yeller did that. While she was here she had charge of all the pickets and after she left Mrs. Smith taken charge of all the pickets.

Q Did you ever serve in any other position in this mill while you were there except the position you stated at the beginning of your testimony? What other work did you do in this mill if any?

A The first work I did here for them I fixed looms and the next work I done was overhauling work and then they come to me and made me special officer here for awhile.

Q What else?

A Then I gave up that and went back in the mill, done some overhauling work for the mill and then I taken a section.

Q What else did you do?

A I quit then.

Q Did you collect any rents for Mr..Elsas?

A While I was special officer I did a lot of that.

Q From whom did you collect them?

A From his tenants.

Q Did you collect their rents from adjacent properties, from houses around here of Mr. Elsas?

A Yes Sir, the company would rent houses on the outside.

Q How did the living conditions of those people compare with those of the people in the mill village?

A The rent in the mill village was two rooms for 80¢, and two rooms on the outside was \$2.00.

Q \$2.00 a month?

A \$2,00 a week.

Q You mean \$1.00 each?

A Yes Sir.

Q How did the people keep their homes, those on the outside of the village?

A Well, they --

Q Comparing the cleanliness of them. Were they clean?

A Clean, of course; it was the city's affair. Outside the village it belonged to the City of Atlanta.

Q Are you familiar with the conditions in the homes of the people of the village?

A Yes Sir.

Q How are those?

A As good as any other mill, if not better.

Q How many mills are you familiar with?

A Familiar with a lot of them.

Q Which ones?

A Columbia, S. C.

Q Did you ever work in those mills?

A Yes Sir, used to work for the Draper Company.

Q At the Exposition Mills, did you ever work there?

A I was second foreman.

Q How did the conditions over at the Exposition Mills compare with those of the Fulton Bag?

A The Fulton Bag has got the cleanest town.

Q How about the conditions inside of the mill?

A It is one of the cleanest kept mills inside I have ever seen.

Q How do the wages compare?

A Well, I don't know of any mill that pays any better wages than the Fulton Bag does.

Q Compare it with the Columbia mills that you worked in; how are the conditions?

A Alright.

Q How about the wages?

A Alright.

Q How about the moral character of these people that live in the village?

A Well, they all seem to be plumb civilized good people. I am a member of the St. Luke's Church over there and the best members are good people. They come from down there in the village.

Q Among the members of the church? A good crowd comes from there?

A Yes Sir.

Q When you went to work in this mill did you sign a contract?

A Yes Sir.

Q What did you think about that contract?

A It did not hurt me.

Q Is there much complaint about the contract among the men?

A I never heard any. I just worked and went on.

Q What complaints were made up in the Union last summer about this contract?

A A lot of them. I could not very well bring them up, here.

Q Were there complaints there about holding back their wages without notice to quit?

A Yes Sir, part of them.

Q What complaints were there about the mill village?

A Tremendous.

Q What complaints were there about the discharges because people belonged to the Union? Did you hear of any?

A Well, they of course all went into the Union fire. They reared and pranced about that, you know; that was a big blow to them.

Q Did you believe that while you were President?

A I believed it was hot air, about all.

Q Did you believe what was said about the mill village was true?

A I knew it was not true.

Q Did you believe what they said about the contract being bad and unjust?

A Well, I don't know, I did not believe about that because I did not know the contract. I never did read the contract and don't know what the contract calls for nor nothing about it.

Q You signed the contract?

A I signed it, didn't object to it.

Q Did you sit there and let them make these complaints without saying anything to them?

A Well, it was this way: Miles -- there was nothing transacted, - he was the boss man. The man acting President up there wasn't nothing at all. We didn't have no say so over nothing. All we done was to call the meeting to order.

Q When you heard these speeches made on these subjects did you ever get up and make any objection to them?

A No Sir.

Q Did they talk about Mr. Elias up there?

A Yes Sirs.

Q What did they ever say about him?

A That they wished he was up there to hear them, and such as that.

Q Did you defend him in the Union?

A No Sir.

Q Was it true what they said about him?

A No Sir, it was not true.

Q Then you joined this Union because you were persuaded; is that what you wanted to say?

A Yes Sir.

Q You had no grievances against the mill?

A None at all.

Q And none against Mr. Elsas?

A None at all.

Q And all of the conditions in the mill were good?

A Yes Sir.

Q The conditions in the mill village are as good as you had ever seen?

A Yes Sir.

Q Was there ever any trouble?

A Well, there was no trouble, I never had a bit of trouble when I was special officer.

Q Any disorder?

A No disorder. The local people was conducting themselves mighty well.

Q How did the rules of this mill compare with the rules of other mills?

A No rules to hurt nobody at all. I don't think there is any other mill in the South that would allow their employees, when they want Coca Cola or a lunch to eat to go out and get it all during the day and more than that, about 9 o'clock in the morning and three o'clock in the afternoon there is a man from each department comes around and takes up his orders and goes out in town and gets them filled and comes back and delivers them.

Q There are a great many people changing out of the mill, coming and going around there?

A Yes Sir.

Q What cause can you give for that?

A The only cause I can give for that is just naturally a roving set of people. They can't be satisfied. They would be dissatisfied anywhere. I think it is just natural, just the want of rambling.

Q Do you know of any cases where people have quit work in this mill and then gone to other mills and then come back here again?

A Time and again. Lots of people come here and go out to Exposition and Elizabeth.

Q Were you ever discharged from this mill?

A No Sir.

Q Did you make application to work in it recently?

A No Sir.

Q Can you make as much money here as you can working for the city?

A Well, I suppose 0-

Q What is it you get working for the city?

A I am getting \$2.25 now straight.
