

PAS 1

P. A. SMITH, sworn, testified:

EXAMINATION BY MR. DALY.

Q What is your occupation?

A Overseer of spinning.

Q How long have you been overseer?

A I have been overseer approximately twelve years.

Q Were you overseer from October, 1913, to May 20th, 1914?

A Yes Sir.

Q Were there discharges in your room during that period?

A We always have them, as well as at any period.

Q That was the prior between the first trouble that arose in this mill and the second trouble, was it?

A Just what trouble do you refer to?

Q The two strikes. The strike of October, 1913, and May 20th, 1914.

A Yes Sir.

Q How many discharges do you think took place in your room during that period?

A I am sure I could not say, Sir.

Q Were members of the Union working in your room at that time?

A Some were reputed to be.

Q Were any of those people discharged?

A Some were and some were not.

Q What reasons were given for the discharges, if you know, of members of the Union?

A The reason for the discharge of any man is inefficiency or to become prejudiced toward our discipline in the room.

Q Did you discharge anybody because they were active in the Union during that period?

A No Sir.

Q You are sure of that?

A I am sure of that.

Q You did discharge a number of Union workers?

A There may have been some that were in the Union.

Q Had those men and women been long in the employ of the company?

A Some had and some had not. That is something I could not give you accurate information on.. I know I have discharged some that were here when I came here, but I don't know how long their period of employment here may have been.

Q Had they done good work up to this time?

A Not all the time.

Q But you never discharged them?

A Some had been discharged and taken back.

Q Had you any instructions from any superior officer of the mill as to what you were to do if people that were active in the organization or the work of the Union, being Local No. 886?

A Specific orders, I cannot recollect that I had any; but the general order I had was, as long as a hand discharged the work and the job in the mill and was not prejudicial to our good management of the room, that is all they want.

Q Was your attention called to the fact that there was a Union being organized by your superior officers?

A Not by my superior officers.

Q But you were put on your guard about men that were joining the Union and paid proper attention to that? By Mr. Johnstone or anybody else over you?

A My instructions are to watch out entirely for the work that is done by the hands; their efficiency that is what you might call it, because they don't urge me that I be on guard in regard to anything except the efficient operation of the machinery.

Q Did you converse with anybody in authority over you as to the conduct of people who were members or who were joining the Union?

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A Well, not any one Union or Union members anymore than anybody else. Of course there were general instructions given all round.

Q New instructions were they?

A No Sir, reiteration of old instructions to be on my guard about force and raising a disturbance and doing anything to break up machinery or tear up work or anything like that.

Q Did you have any machinery broken up in your department?

A Well, no Sir.

Q Did you have any material deliberately spoiled in your department?

A Well, one time, but that was a private case. That came up before this trouble. That has absolutely nothing to do with the Union.

Q Were the discharges greater during the period between October 20th and May 20th than they had been before that time, in your judgement? Were there more discharges in proportion to the number of people?

A I could not answer that to any satisfaction, because we keep no record of discharges at all.

Q Were you any more in your care during that period than there were before?

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A Well naturally, yes Sir.

Q Why?

A For the simple reason I did not want to give any man an unfair deal by getting in behind him for not being efficient in his work and impair the conditions out there any more than I did if possible. I naturally watched closer, but I was careful not to do anything that would interfere any more than I had done. I was careful to that extent.

Q How many spindles have you charge of?

A 42,000.

Q How many people are in your room?

A I carry on my payrolls about 200.

Q Have you any way of knowing how many people were discharged without examinations of the books during that period?

A No Sir, not unless I were to look over the records in the office
