

Justice is
All We Ask

Strikers' Journal

Greed is
Responsible



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ATLANTA, GA., July 18, 1914.

Price

White Slaves In Atlanta

From the condition existing at the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills, prior to, and at the time the strike occurred on May 20th, it would seem that some 1400 **white people** were held in slavery in the city of Atlanta. As an illustration, the applicant for work was forced to sign a contract before employed which says in part, "The company is to pay for such services as are actually rendered by the said employee and is not to pay for lost time arising from accident, disability or any other cause. The company may discharge him (her) whenever it shall become unwilling to retain him (her)."

"Said employee agrees to make good to the company any injury to its machinery or property which may be caused by said employees negligence. Said employee states that he (she) is _____ years of age."

"It is distinctly understood that the wages for one week (a week being construed to mean wages for not less than five days) are to be **always held by the company**, and said wages are not to become due and payable at all, and the same is hereby agreed upon as liquidated damages, if said employee should quit

... When the employment is terminated, the employee, if a tenant, agrees at once to vacate without further notice, and **any wages due the employee may be held by the company** to cover any rent or damage done."

It would seem that the entire contract is made for no further purpose than to take away the money from the poor operatives after they had earned it, and hold them in perpetual bondage.

The Shame of the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills

CITIZENS OF ATLANTA WHAT
ARE YOU GOING TO DO
ABOUT THIS?

For 8 years, Minnie B. Ware had been employed by the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills and supported a widowed mother since a child of 10 years. Two weeks prior to the strike on May 20th, 1914, she was discharged by the Company and given no reason for her discharge. She having joined the Textile Workers organization prior to her discharge, was thought to be the reason as others had been discharged in this same manner.

Her total wage for 14 weeks was \$79.90, the average wage per week being \$5.91 2-3, there was deducted during that time \$12.15 for rents and 50 cents for fines.

On June 5th, 1914, this little woman became a mother. The statement of her physician follows:

"State of Georgia,
Fulton County,
To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that I waited on Minnie B. Ware (51 Tennille St.) in confinement June 5th, 1914. Labor was premature and convalescence slow. I have visited her regularly up to this date (June 15th). She is still in bed not able to sit up and complaining of severe pain in her side, of which she has complained, since her confinement."

Atlanta, Ga., June 15, 1914.

(Signed) W. V. Garrett, M. D.

Within 8 days after her confinement this little 18 year old mother (notwithstanding the fact that the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

Vindictive Persecution of Strikers

BY THE FULTON BAG
& COTTON MILLS

A devoted and sorrowing son writes:

"I have worked in the mill 14 months and gave perfect satisfaction. I worked in this mill 2 months while my mother was sick. I worked in there when I did not expect to come out and find my mother alive, and then when I came out on strike they tried to put me out and I stopped them with a certificate and then they tried to frame up a charge against me and have me arrested through one of their employees and could not do that, and then they had a petition signed through their employees and carried it before the Chief of Police and served me with a copy of same stating that if I did not move within 5 days they would make a case against me for keeping disorderly house, because I had a girl waiting on my mother and also because the people visited us, and it terrorized my mother so much until I had to move her and she just lived 5 days after I moved her. The worrying about the papers that was served on me because she was afraid they would arrest me and I would have to leave her and on some one else to look to except me. The worrying and moving her is partly the cause of her death so soon. "She was treated by Dr. M. V. Garrett, 385 South Boulevard St., Atlanta.

(Signed) W. H. NORRIS,
687 E. Fair St., Atlanta."

The dear old mother, was laid away in her grave at Hollywood, just another victim of the mighty power and oppression of the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill.

Send all contributions to Carl Karston, Treasurer, City Hall.

A STATEMENT OF FACTS.

On Monday, Oct. 13th, 1913, the employees of the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills, driven to desperation by the unfair treatment imposed upon them, struck in a body. These workers were totally unorganized. A verbal agreement was entered into and the Workers returned to work. This agreement was almost immediately broken by the Company, and members of the Committee were discharged.

It was then that some of the operatives decided to form an Organization. This was done without assistance from the International Union. From that time on up to April 28th, 1914, the Company gradually discharged the Local Officers and Members, many of them among the ablest and best operatives in the Mill.

Spotters of the Company hung around the entrance of the Meeting Hall and reported the names of Union members to the Company. These Members were subsequently discharged and intimidated, so that it became necessary to carry on the Organization secretly; the discharged members only, attending the meetings, and then reported privately at the homes of members employed by the Company.

In the meantime the Atlanta Federation of Trades, endeavored to secure a conference with the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills, a personal letter was sent to Mr. Oscar Elsas, but he absolutely ignored the communication.

On April 20th, a special meeting of the Local Union was called, at which 320 operatives joined the Union. During the following three days, eighty-three members were discharged. Again efforts were made to adjust matters without resorting to a strike, and a Committee composed of employees of the Company and Mr. Louie Marquardt representing the Atlanta Federation of Trades called upon the Company, but were refused a conference.

On May 20th, 1914, three weeks after the discharge of the eighty-three members, 430 operatives were on strike. During the next three weeks the number increased to 791. Over 125 left the city.

The strike has continued since then with the loss of only three members and will be continued until our demands for "Justice" is recognized.

Our demands are:

- 1st. The re-instatement of discharged members.
- 2nd. The elimination of Child La-

CASES OF PELLAGRA IN VICINITY OF FULTON BAG AND COTTON MILLS.

Following is a list of persons having contracted disease by living and working in the mill settlement:
To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that the list of Pellagra cases 19 in number contained on the list, has been given to Mr. Chas. A. Miles, by the undersigned, and are only a partial list of the actual number of cases existing in the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill District.

Dated this 28 day of June, 1914.

Mrs. Lizzie Gray, 75 McDonald St. Former address, 60 Fulton Terrace.
Mrs. Lizzie Newman, 52 Fulton Terrace. Former address, 38 Reinhardt street.

Monroe Chamlee, Adairsville, Ga. Former address, 62 Fulton Terrace.

Mrs. Maggie Clark, 28 Fulton Terrace. Former address, 24 Reinhardt street.

Charlie Brock, Columbus, Ga. Former address, 52 Berean avenue.

Miss Louella Brock, Columbus, Ga. Former address, 52 Berean avenue.

Mrs. Cora Pharr, 17 Picket Alley. Former address 69 Savannah street.

Mrs. Lizzie Evans, 75 Savannah street. Former address, 40 Reinhardt street.

Mrs. Dollie McCann, 10 Savannah street. Former address 96 S. Boulevard.

Mrs. Ella Emmett, 21 Berean avenue. Former address, 23 Gaskill street.

Mrs. Vaughan, 91 Carroll street. Mary Norris, 47 Tennell street.

Russ Whitmire, Milledgeville, Ga. Former address, 50 Wyman street.

Mrs. Will Adrnell, Grady Hospital. Former address, 54 Wyman street.

Mrs. Ida Weaver, 61 Wyman street. Former address, 62 Wyman street.

Miss Mattie Avans, 82 Central Place. Former address, 58 Wyman street.

B. E. Henderson, 185 S. Boulevard. Former address, 62 S. Delta street.

bor under 14 years of age.

3rd. Reduction of hours of labor to 54 hours per week.

4th. An increase of 15 per cent. in wages for all operatives.

5th. The abandonment of the present vicious contract system of employment, and the elimination of the terrible docking system.

With a view of demonstrating our confidence in the justice and righteousness of our demands we have offered to submit the whole matter in dispute to Arbitration. This offer is still open.

(Signed) D. L. MILLER, Secty.

POOR WAGES, ENDANGER THE HEALTH OF ALL CITIZENS.

Following upon the heels of the strike in the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill Settlement, attention of the sanitary department was called to the deplorable sanitary condition prevailing there.

Rows of houses were found with toilets built between making it necessary for several families to use same toilet.

Relative to the condition the following report was made by a committee sent to investigate:

Report of Board of Health.

Honorable Board of Health,
Atlanta, Ga.

Gentlemen:-

Your committee submits the following report on the plumbing at the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mill:

"We condemn the privy sinks now being used."

"We condemn the flooring under the showers and suggest that if they remain, they should have cement floor, and drainage."

"We recommend that a sink with water to same be conveniently installed for each apartment, both up and down stairs.

"We recommend that at least one closet be placed at each home.

Respectfully,

M. C. Strickland, Chm. Pbg. Com.
J. P. Kennedy, M. D. Health Officer.
C. A. Smith, M. D., Bacteriologist.
J. A. G. Beach, Chief Pbg. Insp.

A more serious menace to the health of Atlanta could hardly be conceived. This pest hole has been the breeding place for all sorts of disease; and as a matter of self protection the citizens of Atlanta should see to it that it be eradicated.

(Signed) W. V. GARRETT, M. D.

The Shame of the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills.

(Continued from first page.)

attending physician said she was not to be moved for ten days) was evicted from her shack on the mill-lot, while her miserable belongings was being set in the street by the Marshall and his negro assistants. Her feeble old mother, with the courage of the Trojan mother of old, stood silently by and witnessed the affair, helpless before this mighty corporation and its power.

RULES TO GOVERN WHITE PEOPLE.

Rules for Operatives.

One week's work is to be always held back.

One week's notice is required for bad work, and upon leaving the service of the Company before work is inspected, whether on notice or upon being discharged, will be required to deposit one (\$1.00) Dollar or more, until the work has been inspected. A self-addressed post-card will be furnished for address, and upon receipt of same the Company will mail check to cover the amount withheld, less charges for seconds.

Frame Hands, (Slubbers, Intermediate and Speeders) will be charged for bad work, and the amount charged will be given to the spinner detecting the bad work. The work cannot be inspected until it is spun; this requires from one to two weeks. From Fifty (50) cents to One (\$1.00) Dollar will be withheld—the rule applying to Frame Hands the same as Weavers.

No matches, except the kind furnished free of charge by the Company, are allowed in the plant. A fine of One (\$1.00) Dollar will be assessed when this rule is violated.

Pay envelopes will not be delivered on Saturdays unless you have in Five (5) days work on the present week. What time is lost on the present week, and must be made up the following week before the pay envelope can be drawn.

**ASK YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THE PREMIUMS.
Rules for Section Men in Weave Department.**

Loom Fixers are expected to be at their work morning and noon in time to see that all looms in their Section are in operation promptly at starting time, and will see that they are not shut off until speed slacks at noon and night.

You are required to use straight edges. The overseer will specify the kind used. You can secure these at the Store Room. A deposit of One (\$1.00) Dollar and Two (\$2.00) Dollars (according to size) is required, and when returned in good condition the amount deposited will be refunded.

A complete set of tools are required.

You will be fined 20 per cent. of the seconds on your Section.

When leaving the service of this Company whether you complete a notice or discharged, 25 per cent. of your time will be withheld at the time of settlement until all of the

THE APPEAL TO HUMANITY.

The attention of the citizens of Atlanta is directed to the splendid struggle being waged for the liberation of the "White Slaves" in the Cotton Mills of the South. In the City of Atlanta, Ga., in the "Empire State of the South," where Child Labor Laws are the worse in any State in the Union, or in any civilized Country in the world, the Cotton Workers have organized, and revolted against the intolerable conditions imposed upon them by the Fulton Bag and Cotton Co., and under the direction of Organizer Miles are fighting for the elimination of Child Labor, recognition of the Union, and the establishment of a 54 hour work week.

The Fulton Bag and Cotton Co., is supported by the Southern Cotton Manufacturer's Association, and the National Manufacturer's Association and are resorting to the cruelest tactics in their efforts to break the Strike. It has been the rule of this Company to hold a weeks wage, and when the Workers struck they had from a week to nine days pay due; this money the Company declared forfeited on the grounds that the Strikers left without notice. Credit was cut off at the Store, and starvation was immediately upon them. They are being evicted from the company's shacks, and are blacklisted in the Mills, intimidated in every possible way to force them back in subjection to the Company.

For weeks before the Strike, efforts were made by the Employees Committee to get a conference with the Mill Officials, but they absolutely refused to meet any Committee. Under these circumstances the International Organization of Textile Workers, the Georgia Federation of Labor and the Atlanta Federation of Trades have determined to come to the assistance of the Cotton Mill Workers, and make this strike a National issue, the success of which will eliminate for all time the disgraceful condition of Servitude imposed upon the Workers in the Cotton mills of the South.

Much has been written in an effort to describe the abject poverty of the Southern Cotton Mill Workers, but neither tongue nor pen is adequate to describe the awful

cloth of your Section has been inspected, taking from one to two weeks to inspect same.

This does not cover all the rules for Loom Fixers, but is intended to outline some of the most important ones.

FULTON BAG & COTTON MILLS.

wretchedness of their existence. Men, Women and little Children, thousands and thousands of them, are in a chronic state of poverty, always on the border of starvation from childhood to grave.

Working in the Company's mill, dwelling in the Company's shacks, bound by a vicious contract, owned Body, Soul and Boots by the Company, they are robbed and exploited to the limit. Father, Mother and Little Body, they are red to the flying wheels of the Cotton Mill and spun into profits of the Company.

Organized Labor, all men worthy the name, should give their fullest moral, and financial support to the fight, and blot out for all time this cruel injustice to the Men, Women and Children in the Cotton Industry.

The General Public as well as Organizer are urged to respond as liberally as possible to this appeal for support in the name of Humanity. Send all contributions to Mr. Carl Karson, City Hall.

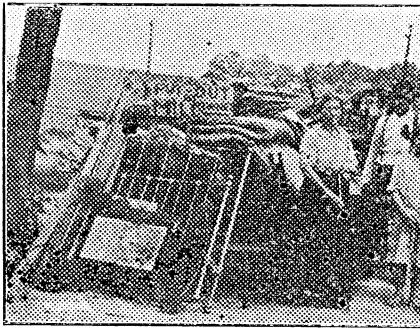
**1,050
Textile Workers on
strike -- 1,400 being
cared for Daily at
Commissary.**

More Than Threescore Families Have Been Evicted from Their Homes by the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills.

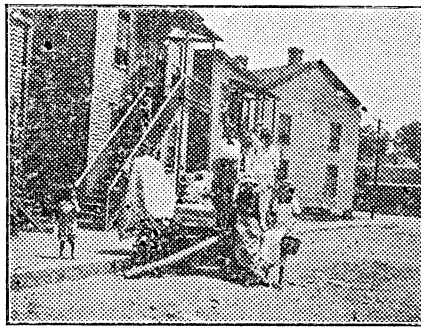


"Fiddling John Carson" and his family, just before the Textile Workers Union moved them and their household goods from the street into a home rented for them by the Atlanta Federation of Trades.

SEND ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CARL KARSTON, TREASURER, CITY HALL.



Mr. Stevens and family, standing besides their miserable belongings in the street. There being fourteen families evicted that day, it was long into the night before the Moving Vans could get to this patient family to move them to their new abode.



Another family evicted, standing trojan-like, demanding nothing but justice, waiting for the Moving Van, after having been set into the street by the Marshall and his negro assistants, by orders of the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill.



The Union Commissary, where over 1200 people are being supplied with wholesome and nutritious food, while they are out on strike, fighting for the betterment of their conditions.

The Atlanta Federation of Trades has contributed to the support of the strikers for Eight Weeks, we shall continue to do so, and we urge every man and woman in Atlanta to contribute also. Donations, whether large or small, will be appreciated.

Make money orders or checks payable to:

CARL KARSTON, Treas.

City Hall.