

ATLANTA, GA.

April 23, 1915

OE-5

Mr. F. A. Weiss,
C/o Holston Manufacturing Co.,
Lenoir City, Tenn.

My dear Sir:

You will notice that I am taking extraordinary precautions in carrying on this correspondence with you.

It is needless to say that my sympathies are with you, and if there is any way in which my Company can co-operate with you and help you win your fight, you may count on us.

For fear that there are some clerks in the Postoffice of a small city who might report correspondence between you and ourselves, I am going to see that your letters are always sent in a plain stamped envelope and also addressed by hand, rather than by typewriter, and shall carry correspondence on direct with you personally, rather than with your Company. I would suggest the same methods as regards correspondence with me.

In the first place, I am delighted to know that you have taken a firm stand with the labor unions, and the unreasonable demands they have made.

Secondly, I would suggest that since the mediators from the Department of Labor, Messrs. McWade and Colpoys, have openly requested you to do the things that you have written, - that you should unhesitatingly, with the assistance of your attorney, write a strong letter of protest to your Tennessee Manufacturers' Association, asking them, in turn, to lodge a strong complaint with the Department of Labor at Washington. As I understand it, the mediators are not to take one side or the other, and I am somewhat surprised that they were so aggressive against your interests, since they were very politic in approaching us. We have had experience with both of these gentlemen, Mr. McWade is impressed with his own importance, due to the several Government jobs he has held in the past. Mr. Colpoys comes from Boston, and is a rank labor man, although a graduate of law. Confidentially, he has some shady records back of him which would not bear exposure.

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Mrs. Conboy, while here, confided to some of the members of the Tent colony, (in which colony we always keep detectives as regular members), that she was going to arrange to have a few of the strikers from your mill sent to Atlanta in exchange for a few of the strikers from our Mill to be sent to your plant. The movement has started from our plant, as follows:

Fred Bryant is to be sent from here, and his description is as follows:

" Thirty years old; low and chunky built; weare long hair, which curls, and black in color. Ruddy complexion; wears Stetson hat, usually on the back of his head. Talks slow and walks slow, and keeps hair well combed and parted. "

This description could place you in position to catch him before he gets into your plant.

My idea is that if we could exchange information in this way we would not only let the Union have the pleasure of paying the expenses of these men and women back and forward, but they would not have a chance to get to work in either one of our plants. We have an organization of detectives sufficient to keep us fairly well posted, and shall let you know from time to time. No doubt you have the same organization, and can keep us posted.

Sincerely yours,