

S P E C I A L   W O R K .

Friday, June 5th, 1914. Report of Opr's J.W.W. & A.E.W. #10

FULTON BAG & COTTON MILLS.

Mr. Miles left hotel at 6:30 A.M. Mr. Wilkes and Crouch still in room when I left. Mr. Winyard and I left hotel and went to our rooms on Decatur Street and made ready the machines to receive information from Union headquarters. The phonograph was playing there was singing and a lot of noise.

The meeting was opened by the President of the Union and called to order at 10:10 A.M. Brother Arch took charge of the door. He introduced the speaker Mr. Miles. "I think we are getting things in pretty good shape now and we have all the police force on our side, except two, there will be a lot of the workers out to-day, and by Tuesday the Mills will be closed down, and there ought to be some of you follow the pickets and see what they are doing. We ought to put this up to police headquarters. Remember they are watching you. I know that there is some gentlemen in this hall with his book. We are trying to get support from the Federation of Labor. We want the detective force and we want the whole police force behind us."

Another speaker, "I had an appointment with the police department and there is some agitation in the department; the police say there are some detectives here and that they are trying to find out who they are. I am going to live up to the rules and regulations of the Labor party, and I want you to do the same. I am getting old now and I am going to put the rest of life in for the labor party. God is a good God. (speaking too low) I met a street car man and he asked me what was the trouble down there. What is all of that furniture standing out on the street for. I then told him that it was a bunch of mill workers that had been evicted. We were talking with the Federation, and there is a lot of money in sight, and I want you to get busy and get those people out of that Mill there, and we will stick to you. You have nothing to fear; make yourself as a committee of one and see all those people that come here and keep them out of the Mill, and you will win. I met a man going to work and he said. "My God man, don't go in there, come out with people and be one of them, and make something of yourself." I see you people are eating just the same as you were before you went out on strike. Sister Carlson from the Labor Temple has a barrel of flour for the Commissary. Brother Hope, we will hear what he has to say."

"I came 70 miles to talk to you people, and I had to leave my job to come, but I had to come to address this meeting. What I want you all to do, is to get out and work; a man take a man; a woman take a woman, and a girl take a girl, get out to that Mill and talk to them, and see why they do not come to this hall. Do not worry about strike breakers coming in here. The general laws of the state wont allow it. I have been working for this cause for 8 years and I am going to continue in it. There were two "scabs" came to town and went to a furniture house and ordered furniture and I told him not to let them have it or they would lose. I know everybody in that Mill but two, and you want to work together and get those two out. Let the Management go to work in the Mills."

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Mr. Rockwell then spoke, "I have some property and I pay \$4.00 a year tax on it, and I am willing to sell it for a good cause." A very short address.

Mr. Miles broth and sister, " I want to say that the strike situation looks better to us to-day than it ever has before, and when we are through here, we will have your pictures taken and we will send them broadcast from East to West in the United States, so that everybody will see them, and we will have an indignation meeting two weeks from now, and it will stop all this talk. I am going to take up this matter and find out why you are not allowed to ask for more wages and shorter hours, and why you were put out of your houses and homes with three days notice. I think that you men and women look fifty percent better than you did before you came out on a strike and we will show the Fulton Bag & Cotton Company before we are through, whether there is a sheriff law or not. Take it all into consideration, we want to know now which side will win and I know that the women and children in that mill will be in better condition than they ever were. We are all going to make a holler about the conditions down there. We are going to have your picture put in the windows of the principal stores, and show the people of Atlanta how you people were put out of your homes, by niggers. We will have a parade again in Grants Park sometime during the days of Christ." He called their attention to the Publicans and Sinners, and said, "Somehow we have not received any contributions yet from the Christians. We were endeavoring to carry on our work in peace and while we were doing it, the Company interfered with us, and I say, you men and women are not allowed to create any disturbance, but the responsibility is on you, and they are doing everything possible to cause riots and make you lose the sympathy of the public, and they are robbing you day and night, both from not giving you enough wages and robbing you of what you do get. I want all the men and women who were evicted, to come up here, and I want the address of every man and woman working in the Cotton Mill, and if you dont come up, everywhere you go, even your friends will turn their back on you. Bring them up here if you can and we will explain to them that this is a fight for manhood and womanhood, girlhood and boyhood. You are all in the hands of forty thieves, day and night. Now I want you all that have not done so, come up and take the obligations (and there was a bunch took it this A.M.) Brothers and sisters, I just received word from the office, that the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills Co. will not give anybody a job in the Mills until the strike is settled." (Phonograph started and the hall is very noisy with applause)

Mrs. Smith is now talking "Our brothers and sisters, I have a report from the Textile Hotel, brother Williams tells us how they are getting along there, he said they were getting along fine."

"Now I want you hot headed people to take great care what you do. I get htheaded myself, sometimes, and when you get hotheaded and want to hit somebody, stick your finger-nails in your hands and turn your back and walk away; don't get into trouble and I know that there is nothing that will make this blood boil quicker than to see a "scab" working in our place, waging a battle the same as we do in way, and all we want to do is use our common sense, and I said when I came to Georgia, I made up my mind to think and think three times before I did anything. Now there are plenty of men who want to help in this strike, and I am one of a Committee of three to help get those contributions, that is all I have to say except that I want that Committee of three, appointed immediately."

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 P.M.