

FULTON BAG & COTTON MILLS.

Saturday, August 1st, 1914. Report of Opr. #470.

I arrived at the mill at 6:15 this morning, and spent the fifteen minutes before starting, looking over the hands as they arrived.

At 6:30 I signed a mill contract which was similar to most mill contracts with a few exceptions, which I will go into in detail later.

Mr. Florence turned me over to Mr. Rogers, who showed me where my weighing place was. I then went back to the gate and watched the rest of the help arrive. Noticed a number of girls about 13, 14 and 15 years old, and without exception, they were all healthy, jolly and full of fun.

The gate seemed to be kept in an efficient manner; all lates leaving their name etc. Some of the girls went out, presumably on account of their department being caught up, and on every occasion, they checked out. While I was waiting at the gate, several employees came to the storehouse for supplies, and every article was given out on a written requisition only.

About 7:30 I was turned over to Mr. Honiker, and stayed with him about two and a half hours. Mr. Honiker took considerable pains to instruct me fully in the duties of my position.

When I was giving my name to the time keeper for the storehouse hands, I was questioned somewhat about what I had done any where I had worked. I told them I was from Columbus, Georgia last, and before that from Philadelphia; that I had worked in several departments, but had been selling oils on commission for Crew, Leverick & Company, had a tiff with the sales manager, and had been "fired" at Columbus. I endeavored to give the impression that I was a rolling stone. When I mentioned Philadelphia, Mr. Stolls, the Timekeeper, spoke up and said that the last weigher they had was from Philadelphia also. Mr. Honiker who was present told him not to jump at conclusions on that account.

After going through every department where I am to collect waste, Mr. Honiker had to leave me. So I spent the time between 10:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M., familiarizing myself with the mill buildings.

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The men's toilets in Mill No. 1 are old style, and not overly clean. While the toilets in the basement of the storehouse and power plant, need a good scrubbing and the walls painted. In Mill No. 2, weave room, the closets are of a type easy to keep clean, and are in good shape. The women's toilets which I went through after stopping time, at 12:45, were in all cases clean enough, but in Mill No. 1, were of obsolete type. In none of them was there much provision for privacy, as there were no doors on the separate compartments. This lack is probably due to the common practice of making a bumming place of the toilet rooms, and possibly cannot be avoided. Some of the hands hang their wraps and coats in the toilet rooms, which is hardly a sanitary habit to get into.

While rambling around the mill alone, I was stopped but once, which was in what I took to be the examining room. I had looked at several large rolls of cloth, when the overseer came along and asked me if I was looking for someone. I told him that I had a little spare time and was looking around. He then informed me that it was against the rules of the Company. So I went out.

The principal exception, as noted above, in the contract each employee signs, is the rule requiring each employee to give six days notice when leaving or forfeit six days pay. This seems unduly severe but is probably justified by the past experience in the way of floaters and lazy help. If the mill can get away with it without future trouble, it certainly will reduce the number of changes. It should also help to promote industrious habits among the hands.

The "boys" were all very good in showing me anything, and displayed an accommodating spirit that surprized me.

I went to board in the mill village to-day, as I wish to get as close the employees as possible.