

FULTON BAG & COTTON MILLS.

Sunday, January 31st, 1915.. Report of Opr. #457.

I remained around boarding house until about 9:30 A.M., at which time I went up on Decatur Street.. While passing under the South Boulevard viaduct, I met Wilbur C. Brown and Ceil Newbury, talking with Bill Jones.. I stopped and spoke to them, and heard Jones ask Brown if he wanted some whiskey. Newbury said, "Got any half-pints," whereupon, Jones reached up to one of the iron girders and took down a half-pint bottle of whiskey, telling us at the same time to look out for the police, as they were up on the Street. He is afraid to stay on Decatur Street, as they have arrested him twice within the last two weeks. His first fine, I believe, was \$24.75 and his second was \$50.75. So, now he stays on South Boulevard, where they are less liable to catch him. He sometimes stays above Decatur and sometimes under the viaduct, but does not now keep his whiskey on his person, but hides it so that in case the "cops" arrest him, they won't find anything on him.

Brown and Newbury were telling me that the union has ordered five hundred tents, so that when the strike is called, they will have enough to accommodate everybody who comes out, and they expect to have enough on strike to prevent the mill running. In a conversation with Mr. Smith, I said that they would not get enough people out of the mill to close it down. He said they would, as there were more union people working in the mill right now than anybody thinks, and that they will stay out this time and the mill will lose out.. The union peoples' idea is to close the mill down so that the City will have to take a hand in it.. Smith said that the Fulton Company did not pay any taxes and have never paid any; that they have an agreement with the City whereby they are exempt from taxation, provided they keep the mills running a specified number of hours per week, and no matter how hard the times are, Smith said that they have to keep the mills running or else the City will take them over. I told him I did not believe it, and he said he had heard Mr. Elsas speak about it himself, and that that is what the union has in view: to get enough people out so the mill will not be able to run, and then the City will take a hand and the union will win their point..