

9/6/15

After Leaving #20 I returned to camp and Mrs. Conboy was speaking; she was followed by Regan and Mullinax. Mrs. Conboy stated that she had been ordered by Mr. Golden to do away with the tents and pursue other methods, and that she would assist each one in getting away. Regan then gave only until Sunday week to vacate and Mullinax asked that none return to the Fulton Bag Mill for work. I was later in conversation with Mrs. Conboy and she stated that she wanted to keep A. K. Wilson, Mr. Mullinax, but she did not want any of the rest of the members in camps to remain on the staff. She later connected with Tadoo-Bill Holder, and he is her secret man here, and he is now in the vicinity of the mill. Bunt Hammett and Frank O'Dell tried to reorganize the bunch and frequently used Mr. Florence's name. Hammett stated that if we would stand by him that he would get us all a job in the mill and he and O'Dell left the camps and did not return until yesterday morning; each one of them had money with them, taking all pickets from the camps to the streets and endeavored to make them drunk. Hammett paid for all drinks. And for reason aforesaid I was unable to get them by the mill at 6 o'clock. Mrs. Conboy spoke to the Woman's Labor League, going with my wife, and was at our house this, (Thursday) A. M. At 7 P. M. Wednesday night, I was still with Bunt Hammett, J. B. Moore, Mose Barton, Ernest Brenn and several others from the camp. Hammett had money, bought drinks and cigars for the entire house in several saloons. He stated that Mr. Florence was a nice man, that he wished him well but he was going to get all of the money out of him he could. Some of these men cursed Mr. Florence and other Officials of the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills and I remained with them until 4 A. M. to keep them from breaking the windows out of the office, which Hammett tried to get them to do. After Hammett failed to cause any disturbance around the mill, he then offered to pay the bunch of us to jump on Regan, and I kept that situation down, also. It is very evident that Hammett and O'Dell had received money to cause this trouble, either from the officials of the mill or from Mrs. Conboy.

The strike has not been called off, but Regan has been discharged; his pay stopping on June 15th. Mrs. Conboy's trunk is now at the Kimball House and she states she is going back to Knoxville and will return again in a few days, and from her conversation, I am of the opinion that A. K. Wilson will be the only one to remain on the staff of Secret Organizers and she will bring the balance with her. They will endeavor to organize the Weavers & Loom Fixers. Regan himself thinks Mrs. Conboy has left town, but she is only checking accounts of Regan and Mullinax. At 4 A. M., I discontinued—until 8 A. M. today and have been unable to connect by 'phone on account of various ones with me, but I will meet you at Hotel Aragon at Noon tomorrow, Friday. I would suggest that you not entertain any propositions that they put before you for they are only working for your money and not for your interests and there is not a single one that I would suggest your hiring under any conditions. Last night Mr. Elsas Chauffer went into Johnsons' Saloon, 528 Decatur St. and saw Hammett when he was spending his money so freely. This chauffer purchased a half-pint of whiskey from Sam Awtrey, which was brought to the Saloon by a small boy of Awtrey's. Hammett endeavored to get several of us to jump on this chauffer and Charlie Bone had his knife out and was slipping up on this chauffer when I called him back. Later Bone fell out with me because I wouldn't let him cut the chauffer and Bone was put out of the saloon by the Proprietor. I can hardly explain the trouble that Hammett is causing with this money he has lately received, but I do know that it is very injurious to your interests. because, by stating

that it is your money that he is receiving but he would not work for you, if times were good, and he had to give value received but as long as the Gravy Train is running he intends having his share. Such has been the talk for a few days and it is generally known from the mill to Five Points. That has been the main reason that I have been kept from connecting with you.

None of them have left the camps yet and none are expected to leave before Friday night. Mrs. Conboy is now waiting for her new recruits who will meet her at the Kimball Hotel today or tomorrow. Harry Farrington did not go to Columbus but he is connecting with Tattoo-Bill Holden giving him the information from the card room. Mrs. Conboy will be at my house at 5 P. M. today and if you can send some witness that I can secrete before that time, they will be able to vouch for the correctness of this statement and I will go over the entire situation with Mrs. Conboy for the benefit of the witness.

Respectfully,

Number Sixteen.

*By Mrs R W Oglesby
for # 16*