

Operative #429, Special work, Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills,  
Saturday, September 9th, 1916.

I called on Haranis at his store #169 Decatur St. Haranis was busy and had to leave shortly after I met him, and so I remained for about two hours and conversed with his clerk, who is Jewish and also a member of the Socialist party. He stated during the conversation that the party was not very strong in Georgia, as they had not been strong enough to get recognition with the labor agitators, and said that where the Socialist party was strong, was where they had been taking active part in the labor troubles, and in most cases agitating for better conditions among the workers and urging the latter to organize in the industrial field, so that when the workers did strike they could collect funds for them, as well as furnish them with speakers to educate the workers on the importance of organization. He said that in this way the Socialist party grew in membership by proving their interest in the cause of labor. He further stated primarily this was the basic principle of the Socialistic movements. I found this fellow very intelligent, and if they all average up to the standard of this man, I have no doubt but what they will be an important factor in the labor troubles in the future in Atlanta. There is no doubt but what these Socialists thrive in and among where there is labor agitation. At 10:30 I called at the mill office for my wages, where I met Rogers there just outside the mill office. He said that he was there with his sister getting her wages. He asked if I had been working since he last saw me, and I replied that I had been working only a day and a half, as I had been very ill. He seems to expect me to be discharged on account of my union sympathies, as expressed like himself, and for which he thinks that he was discharged. He stated to me that many weavers had asked him as to how it was that he could get his time without working a notice, as they would like to do the same. He said that he was telling the above element that the best way was to talk unionism, and to say that they were members of the union, and that in this way they would get their money quicker.

It would appear to me that employees are taking advantage of the fact that they can easily get over their agreement to work a notice, as well as at the same time sow the seed for open discussion of unionism, as it opens up to them an easy way of avoiding working a notice, and if the company did not discharge those talking on union matters with object in mind of getting their time at once, it would open the way for any agitators to get a strong organization started, and form a local union, as it would appear that the company must discharge those talking on unionism, or else let them keep on working, and talking openly on union matters.

It would appear to me that if the clause on working a notice was abolished, and instead these employees were made to wait until pay-day came around before they could get their money, there would be a tendency to stop these people from getting their time whenever they felt like it. In connection with this I may add that several of the employees have said that they use this means when they desire to get all their money quickly.

*Harry Preston*

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## FULTON BAG &amp; COTTON MILLS.

Experience proves that most of the textile strikes are not deliberately planned in advance, but that it is usually some little dis-satisfaction on the part of the employees, coupled with a lack of tact in proper handling of the situation on the part of Over-seer or Sup't, and possibly a lack of fore-sight on the part of the Management. At such a time the workers are in a position to be led in any way by any fool of a leader who makes his appearance, and it is usually at just such a time as this that the professional agitator makes it his business to stimulate the agitation, and to further spread the trouble by telling them as to how very badly they have been treated.

It is simply my desire to state a fact which may have bearing on matters in the future, and I just wish to point out a fact that will be evident to you that there is danger in these little matters which can be eliminated by careful planning in advance.

Rogers said to me that he is going out of town to get work, and he can do little damage by spreading this plan of his; it may be however, that he has got these ideas into the minds of a few of the hands, and you could therefore understand what their object was in using unionism as a means of getting their time.

*Harry Preston*

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