

#429

Tuesday Sept 26 1916

Fulton Bag - Cotton Mills.

At 7 P.M. last night I stopped in front of Jerry's place of business, and the filling carrier whom I suspected about before in these reports and working on route of house 5th and 6th in wear room no. 2, Mill no. 1, was there and he asked me what had become of me the last few days. I told him of my discharge and what the reasons I thought was the cause. He stated that it could not possibly be any of the men he had told me of being good sympathizers of unionism that ^{had} squealed on me. I lamented the fact ^{of} how it was so many employees come and go, working a few days at most and then working their notice, and depressed my opinion of the conditions in these mills forcefully to the discredit of the company, and I added that it was a good thing that about fifty employees were getting through every week on account of these conditions. He said to me as follows: (to wit) you notice brother last week how one or two would have their notices up each day getting through in succession? I replied yes. Well he stated, That is the scheme in that mill to have some one getting through all the time until there is better condition and we can organize, I agreed with him it was

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a good skeme. he did not use exactly the language as put here, but the results of his remarks are the same. later he said he knew what he was talking about and that he was wise to it all but that he would not tell who was responsible for this skeme inside of the mill because he could never tell who he was talking to most of the time. I told him that the smash hand was a good union man and that I had been talking with him often. also I said that he should keep all the good fellows in ^{his} mind and when there is enough a secret meeting could be arranged and then all can work together to form a union. I asked him if he had any talks with this smash hand? he replied that he did not know him at all, but would try to become acquainted and possibly exchange views on union matters. Now! to those it may concern. It should be ascertained whether this filling carrier is loyal to the company or not, or if he represents the position I have placed him in. If he sustains my contentions, some of the operators should be put next to him to find out who is in the plot inside the mill executing the skeme referred above. If it is engendered from the outside or by union agitators I will eventually uncover the skeme from that standpoint. I have in the past on two different occasions

seen this filling carrier going in the mill in company of the boss, and if he is a natural reporter, it is possible that he tells the boss his information but that it does not go any further up in the management. I don't want to reflect on the loyalty of any of the boss in the mill, but these positions of boss become monotonous like any other job and the least friction with their help and their superior means we work on their minds, and consequently a lot of little things that may involve them in extra work and worry they will naturally neglect. I got a letter to-day from Miss Priest telling me to call Wednesday night at her home. I will do so, besides this so as I can get up to Flemming. Harry Preston has given me a good description of him and the place he frequents daily, also he will be pointed out to me at the first opportunity. I called on Haranis to-day but nothing developed that I can report. I have written a reply to Miss Bellehurs letter received last Saturday, and I believe it would be a good idea for me to go to Anderson S.C. and interview her. Because as she states in her letter that she learned much when she was in Atlanta in connection with the strike, but could not tell me all in a letter.

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I had a talk with Hart of spinning dept no 2 mill. He said his boss asked him to withdraw his notice but he refused. So the boss told him he would have to lay off today. Hart had an argument over this and wanted his money at once, finally the boss put him on furling till the rest of his notice. Hart also stated that he had a talk with the boss of spinning no 1 at the latter request, and he was offered inducements to come and work in the other mill but that he should not mention his meeting with the boss of no 1 to the boss of no 2, but he declined the favor and he showed me a letter received from the party in Macon telling him the job would be held till he had finished his notice here. Hart further stated that his boss was the meanest he ever worked for and that every hand that ever worked for this boss could verify his contention, and this was the reason that the help was always getting through. He praised the second hand as being a good fellow and said the boss of no 1 was better liked by the help.

There was some talk at the dinner table about the man being knocked down the elevator well by the turn dept boss, and it concerned about a civil suit being brought against the company.

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a motorman on the street railway for whom I have read about in their reports before told me to-day that the company had hired 150 ^{new} men last week. This fellow takes me for a labor agitator and that I am connected with the U. T. P. He made the statement that it was for the interest of the men to hurry up and get this union going before the military men were sent home from the Mexican border and also to be in fighting form just about ^{the time} when the South eastern fair starts so that they can hit the company hard if a strike is necessary. Further he requested me to find out all I could around the city while loafing around and see if I could talk it in to all the car men I come in contact with. That they were going to organize sooner or later and if a fight has to come it may as well come now, better than later when the company will be prepared with a lot of extra men. I find this man very much enthused with unionism and he is always anxious to hear of some news about the latest developments and he is also interested about all news from the New York car men situation. I have no doubt some trouble in this line is assured in the near future and will have to be fought out.