

Evening Report Fulton Bag Co.

We attended the meeting that was held this evening at the A.B. & A crossing close by the Exposition Mills, where, it was announced this afternoon that the speaking would be held this evening. Callen was there to give the speech and he invited Fleming to have a word or two to say about the afternoon meeting that was held over at the Fulton Mills.

Fleming got up and said "We were over to the Fulton Bag this afternoon and I want to tell you the people over there right now are right in for this thing head and foot and are hoping that this thing will start right away. I told the people over there that I did not think it was going to be as hard to educate them to this movement as it will be the people at some of the other places around here, and really I believe that is a factory because some of the people around here and other places have got to be taught what organizing means for them as a whole and they are not going to be so hard to bring around over at that mill as they are here. I also win my bet that I made. I bet that there would not be as many people at the Fulton Bag Co today as there were the other night, and there wasn't. Brother Callen was not able to be with us over there, but we had Brother Pollard, of the Georgia Federation of labor with us instead. And he gave a very interesting speech. I told the people over there that the first night we held these meetings over here we had but 17 people and now it has increased until it has reached 5 or 600 and it is still increasing. After the meeting over there several of the overseers were talking to me and they said that all I was after was revenge. I told them that I was not after revenge at all but was simply working in behalf of the working class of people. I sleep 8 hours, I work 8 hours and I have 8 hours for recreation, and those 8 hours I am giving to the Textile Labor movement to help you people along, now what else can a fellow do unless he gives a sum of money or something to them to help them but I ain't got that to give or else I would give it. Remember folks it is sure to come and it ain't very far off now. Brother Callen has been down to Griffin Ga. today and I suppose he is very tired and I will let him have a word or two to say to you.

Callen started the meeting in prayer and in this prayer he used terms such as this "Lord we are glad to be able to see that which we have not been able to see in these mills. And that you have helped us to right this by bringing us here tonight where we can readily adjust these matters and that you will help us to get what we are entitled to have by making these who have kept us in darkness for so many years and would continue to do so until you can show them the right way." Now he plays this religion stuff on the people and tries to get away for most anything by leading them to believe that he is, down in his heart a true christian man and there are a great many people who fall for this kind of stuff and that is the way he has got them thinking that he is a straightforward Methodist preacher out there in behalf of the laboring class of people. He asserts that all he gets out of it is the clothes on his back and that is very little he says. He had considerable trouble at times to get the people to keep quiet and on several occasions got very

very angry with the talking that was going on among the people. He first said that the people could sit on the ground if they preferred and remarked that scientists claim that the people do not stay close enough to the ground. And if they did they would be better off. He then says, "I see we are going to be bothered with this train business again tonight but if we are I want you people to remember where I leave off so as I won't have to repeat as I have had to do. I am going to try and show you by example tonight 4 examples of a man. My text for this evening will be the Sower. There was one man who had some land and the land was good rich fertile soil. But he did not seem to care much about the land and when he would go to plant his seeds he would throw them around in a haphazard way and as the crop came up it showed that it had never had the proper

care and ground to grow in. Now this man would not get out and plow the ground sufficiently to allow the seeds to take hold and consequently the birds would fly down and carry away the seeds. And here and there those seeds who were struggling to take hold some where in the earth sprouted up meek and frail. And so it was with the first sower. Now there was the other sower the second man. He had a large track of land and he would come out with his plow and plow up the earth and here and there were large boulders or rocks. And there were thousands of these rocks lying around here and there, and when he would plant the seeds, in between these rocks there was a little ground that had accumulated there from time to time and these little seeds wanted to grow so they took hold of the ground that was in between the rocks and sprung up along side of the crop that had been planted in the soil that had been stirred up and plowed. So when this sower came along to gather the crop he noticed the little seeds had taken hold in the rocks and says to himself what will I do to remove these rocks so as to have this ground to raise crops on and get what I should have out of the land. So he decided that he get some dynamite and blast out these rocks, I suppose THAT WAS WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO WITH THAT DYNAMITE DOWN HERE AT COLUMBUS. ONLY I WAS POSSIBLY GOING TO BLOW SOME GRAY MATTER INTO THOSE PEOPLE DOWN THERE BRAINS. Well this man got the dynamite and when it came time to plow up the soil for the next crop he had his land cleared of all these rocks so as he could plant the seeds in some place that they would take hold and spring up the same as the seed that had been planted in the ground where it had sufficient room to take hold. Now these little seeds as I said before wanted to take hold in the little earth that there was on the rocks. And I want to tell you people about a thing that happened one time. Up here on the side of Lookout mountain is a stretch of land that every one had said nothing ever could be grown on. So one day a settler moved up there on the side of the mountain right in the place where every body had said that there was no prospect of ever raising anything on. He had rock all round him and his home was practically built on a rock. It was not long until this settler had the land bearing crops and every body who seen it said that they did not see how it was possible to do it. He planted the seed in between the rocks and made great long rows of seeds and he brought his crops into the market and every body wanted them. Now after all the people had said that it could not be done he accomplished something that no one had ever attempted to accomplish and was successful. He did not care what this one and that one said about the place he had picked out but he went up there and showed everybody who had tried to dishearten him what could be done. It was not long until this same man got some dynamite and one by one he blew out these various rocks. And today he has a little farm up there that he can be proud of and if any of you have ever been up there you know what those little farms do up there. It is not necessary for me to tell you. But it took hard labor and hard struggles to accomplish his purpose and when he had it accomplished he reaped the harvest thereof. And that is what it takes for any of us to accomplish anything. We are going to find a lot of rocks and boulders in our way but we have got to get in there and blast them out, and make them see where they are in the wrong so as they wont have a hard struggle to get for there crops what they should get. Now comes the man who had a plot of land and on this plot of land he had a lot of thorns and brambles spring up. He says that if these brambles can grow out there I ought to be able to make a crop grow out there, because because where brambles and thorns will sprint up, it must be very good land growing land because it is commonly said among the farmers, that, where you see brambles grow it has got to be good land or else they would not grow. So he got out there among these brambles and thorns and cut them down and took his plow and he plowed and he plowed and he plowed. And after he had turned the land over a number of times he started to plant his seed. He took it row by row, up one side and down the other and covered the seed up so that the birds could not come down and get them. (Interrupted by a

freight engine stopped speaking for a few minutes until it had passed)
Starts speaking again

"Well folks I am sorry that we have got to be bothered with these trains from time to time, but if each one of you were getting what these man on that train who are running it, are getting you would not be out here tonight. You would not have to be. Some of them fellows are getting 200 and 225 and 250 and some of them as high as 275 dollars a month and you can bet your life that there wives are not working in these mills or anyother mills or factorys and there children have the opportunities that none of your children have got. And that aint all you aint going to have them unless you take advantage of the opportunity that you now have. My heart goes out for you people in this mill and I am going to help you to better yourself but you have got to wake up to it or it is all useless. Now back to my story, I tell you people when I think of the way you people have been kept down by a lot of people who are striving for local democracy my nerves boil up. Well this fellow planted the seeds where they could take hold and bear crop, where the storms would not blow them away and where the birds could not come down and get them and what was the result of his hard labor, his getting out there and taering out these thorns and bramble his turning the soil and keeping after it? When the crop came up and it had grown to its full extent he was rewarded with one of the biggest and the best crops that had ever been grown aroun there. But he had to toil ~~hard~~ hard to do it. He kept after it night and day and finally accomplished the thing that a lot of people give of hope of accomplishing. He plowed and plowed and plowed and that is what we have got to do to make those people over there sit up and take notice. You have got to plow into these people who work in these mills, these people who have not got the gray matter to see that which they should have seen years ago and that which they have been cheated out of by such people as these who run these mills. Now there is no use telling you about the 4th. sower, he was the fellow who readily seen what should be and he always got what was coming to him. Now I want you people who want to get what you should have to go to these people and plow into there brains and dynamite there brains so as they will see that what they can not see, and that which is neccessary to bring up your children right. We have a lot of people who never think about that which a child should have today. So as there children can mingle in with the other children who have had advantage of these opportunities. Ill bet you that every one of the stockholders of that mills children get it. There are a lot of foolish girls who bring these children into the world and in the morning tie them to the bed post and go off to work in these mills. They aint fit to be the mother of a child and they should be strung up. They dont no more understand the meaning and needs of that child than I dont know what. Are you going to continue to live that way, are you going to let these people tell you that you must take this or you must do that.? Wake up to it now because when this war is over and your fellow men or your sweetheart sweetheart comes back you are going to be in a worse fix than you were before and you wont have a chance then to get what you are justly and rightfully deserving of having. But if you do grasp hold of it now when the war is over and your brothers or your sweethearts do come back they are going to see a home that they did not see before, a home that they will be proud to walk into. And it is your place to see to it now. Now is the time I had occassion one time to stop down here at the Georgia Experimental Farm down here on the, lets see. well anyway it is down here close to Macon I believe. anyway you pass it on the train. I suppose there are several of you who have passed it on the train that is if you have ever had the opportunity to ride the trains. Well anyway they showed me how after they had worked hard to get the soils so as they could experiment with some cotton, what wonderfull results they had accomplished. Right then I says to myself it is wonderfull what a man can do if he sets his head down to doing it. (He then related something about a woman who came upt o him on one occassion, while he was minister of a church, which he pointed out as being over toward the Exposition Mills, had said to him about the young girls and the young marriages there are today. I do not recall in my mind

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just what he said this woman said to him however it was nothing of any interest worth while)

Now people you have got to wake up to it and you have got to work hard for it ,and I want each one of you to get down there among those mill people who have not been up here and let each one of you bring one of them up so as they can see what we are going to do for them.And once they do come up here you wont have to bring them up the next time.There are some people who you have got to plow into there brains they havent the gray matter that they should have ,they have not had the opportunity to have it like a great many other of you folks and there are others who like the story goes you have got to dynamite the hard places,the rocks out of there heddss so as they can see the way to get a bumper crop.We have today the most serious condition that the world it self has ever had to contend with a war to prevent a world dominating democracy on some ones part the same as these people have tried to gain a local democracy.But thank the Lord we have a man in this thing that is capable of handling any situation that may come up Pres.Wilson. (clapping for the first time during the evening) I believe as the lord sent a saviour into the world in an in visable way,so Pres Wilson has been sent in a visible way ,to protect the world and today the whole world is looking up to him for what is going to happen that will save the world.And that at the conclusion of this war he will be the greatest man that the world has ever had or ever will have.And right today he is the President of the world you might say.(CLAPPING) Now people get by this terrible stage that you are in by dynamiting your own brains,because if you cant see it by this time you will never see it. Remember now we are going to have these meetings every night this week excepting Sunday night and I want you people to get down there and wake those people up.Agitate and agitate and if your boss says anything to you about organizing tell him to go to HELL.Now I am going to dismiss you folks for tonight and tomorrow night each one of you bring some one else up to the meeting with you.

Callen apparently seems very much disgusted with the turnouts at the meetings and is trying to get the people to encourage the people in the mill to get others of course interested in the meetings.He remarks that he is not going to try and organize the people until the most of them fall in line and he uses terms that have a tendency to inspire the people against the mill owners .He stimulates them by saying Tell them to go to hell and people of the class that the general run of the most of the younger element that work at these mills are fall for this stuff,but there are a lot of intelligent people who attend these meetings that do not fall for this kind of talk and he brings in things to try and inspire the people who are of the intelligent class as some of them are,by saying such things as "It is not yourself that I am worried about and working so hard for ,but it is those little children that you have brought into the world that have got to have some thing for there future."

However he is a man who will not fall for women or any other traps that may be set for him from time to time and I advise that strict precaution be used in setting these traps,as he may have some one guarding his interest as well.A man who has been fraimed up on as many ways as he has,is going to be very cautious where he steps,and what he does.I have considered all the traps that could be used to catch him up in something so as to incriminate him .It may be that one plan that I have in mind that has been successful might work out to advantage,but it will have to be worked very shrewdly.If it does it would put one black mark against him that would have a tendency to make the people believe that he is full of dope or something and ,as he talks very erratic at times it ~~it~~ would meen a whole lot to catch him up in a way of this kind that I have in view.However he gives the appearance of a very shrewd fellow and it would be in my estimation a hard thing to catch a fellow of his kind napping.The only way and the best but the hardest way to incriminate him is to get him into something that he himself would fall for.And he may fall for a woman and he may not.But all we can do is to test him out and if he does fall for

anything of this kind our operator will be able to land him ,if there is

any body at all able to do so.

They apparently are not going to center much time to the Fulton Mills because they are afraid to tackle it out there because they have had a taste of it there before and are not going to play it until they have the EXPOSITION MILLS lined up first. They know that the people are afraid of this man Fleming because of the condition that they were in 4 years ago which was principally agitated at that time by Fleming.

Here and there at both places, The Fulton Bag Co. and the EXPOSITION MILL you can here some who favor the movement and a whole lot who do not favor it, and I advise that the mills make Callen and Fleming first get the bulk of the people in line, before the mills make any concessions to them. And I want to say that they are going to have a hard time to get the people lined up right because they do not stick together as a great many other various lines of professions do. And they are not going to find it so easy to get other positions where they can get the positions that CALLEN and FLEMING say pay such big money. And this is simply because that there are not very many men who have not had experience in other lines, can go out and get any better money than they make at these mills. As I have made it my business to inquire around so as to ascertain as to whether or not these people are getting what they should have. And I have seen many places around this country where they are not paying the help as good wages as they are in these mills, and on top of that they are compelled to pay high rentals for their homes which is something that the mill people furnish there help at a very reasonable price. And taking all these things into consideration I am afraid they are going to have a hard time to get the people lined up. As Callens Speech was so long it may have been that I missed several things in this report that he said, however I missed very little of it and I have a very good memory when it comes to remembering a thing and I manage to catch most all that a person says and dont miss very much of it. I had #2 follow Callen on the street car and try to pick up a flirtation with him, but he will not fall for it. She says that when he would look at her and see her looking at him he would turn his head and start talking to a fellow that he was riding with. And when he left the car at 5 points she tried to pick up, a flirtation with him but to no avail. I have detailed her among the women at the speeches so as to get there sentiment in the movement and she says that they dont have much to say excepting some ladies who sit there with their babies in their arms. Now and then they will say such things as, that is right etc. There are several of the young fellows among the crowd who favor the movement, but the older class of people have very little to say. I really believe that it is the fellows who range in age from 21 to 30 who are going to do as much as they possibly can to get the mills organized but I am afraid they are going to have a hard time to do it.

Yours Very Truly

R.O.O.
SUPERVISING OPERATOR I 00
A.D.S.C.

P.S.-It would be advisable to put these reports in some safe place from time to time as there are lots of people who are nosy enough to stir up and ask some times and get such things as these and read them and give the information to others who disclose it to damaging people. However this is only a suggestion on our part as I have had the above happen and always use precaution to guard against it in the future.