

Case Series #A741B

Operating
Representative No. 52F

At Atlanta, Ga.

Date Wednesday, August 28th, 1918.

In re Labor Conditions.

"This morning I reported at the plant before the starting time, and talked to several of the workers about the bags which we were making.

I told them that they were sugar and flower bags, and as they were large quantities they were no doubt for the soldiers, so that they would be properly fed, and be in a position at all times to successfully combat with the barbarious Huns, and protect us women from the atrocities which have been practised on the women of Belgium and France.

I said that this war was waging in behalf of the women of the Allied countries. That the methods which were used in those regions were so cruel that they were unbelievable, but still the truth has been verified, and the Huns have delighted in their treatment of these men.

You women should realize this, and make every effort to increase the production at the plant, so that at no time would those men who are defending us be allowed to want for food due to our laxity or disinterest in our work.

This argument appeared to impress my listeners very much, and they never appeared to realize the importance of their putting forth their best efforts in this world strife.

I told them that the Government depended on the workers in mills such as the client's to win this war, as well as the men on the battle fields.

If we did not produce the bags to carry food to those men, they would have died from hunger. Therefore, we are the first who should assist in winning this war, and make every effort to send forth the food to give our brave soldiers enough strength to fight with.

Upon taking up their work, I noticed that several of the workers made an effort to increase the speed on their machines, and attend to their work very closely.

There are two or three women who are employed on my floor who I am going to make an effort to cultivate their friendship to such an extent that they will assist me in spreading my patriotic propaganda so that the constructive methods of the Service will in a short time begin to show the desired results.

At noon I mingled with several of the workers, but the conversation was on generalities, and unworthy of report.

The same amount of time was lost by the workers today, a number of them remaining in the hall for the whistle to blow from five to seven minutes of twelve.

A great number of the workers were standing about while the machines were being cleaned. I will make every effort to see if those workers time can be used in another method as it is a question of an hour a day for each worker which is lost to the client.

During the afternoon the workers all appeared to be constantly busy with the exception of the machine cleaning timer. The foreman seemed to pay close attention, and was very attentive to one or two new workers, encouraging them to greater efforts.

I left the plant with several of my co-workers in the evening, and while walking to the car I advanced patriotic arguments, which appeared to have the desired effect.

I proceeded to my room, and at a later hour, discontinued for the day."

J.A.W.