

Case Series #A741B

Operating
Representative No. 52FEM

At Atlanta, Ga.,

Date Friday, September 20, 1918.

In re Labor Conditions.

I arrived at the plant at 6:45 A.M. and prior to taking up my assignment spoke to Mrs. Creel and Mrs. Andrea on war topics.

I said, ' This war means more to us that to the men folks, as you no doubt have realized if you have read what has occurred in Belgium, and the invaded parts of France, where the Germans practiced their atrocities without the manhood of a human; in fact they were barbarious. Think what would occur to us if they were to invade our shores.

It is our patriotic duty to do our utmost to turn out more production than ever, in order to properly equip the boys at the front with the necessary material, so that they can carry on this war, and prevent the Germans from invading our shores.'

Mrs. Andrea remarked that she wished the war was over, and Mrs. Creel stated that she is willing to do her best to increase production.

At 7 A.M. we immediately started work. I was assigned to the union special machine, and had been working there but a short time, when it broke down.

The foreman told me to assist Mr. Smith in

cutting tents for the remainder of the day.

A man named Willis Robins, and another named Hendricks, were fooling around, and endeavoring to throw each other down. This occurred at about 10 A.M. A young fellow named Coleman was also fooling, and carrying on, on numerous occasions throughout the day.

Robins, the foreman of the finishing of the tents seemed to be able to lag a great deal throughout the day.

With the exception of the above mentioned irregularities nothing further worthy of report occurred.

At noon we stopped work and went to lunch after which I mingled with a number of my co-workers, and again advanced arguments of a patriotic nature, so as to imbue a feeling of patriotism into them, and urged them on to turn out more work than they have in the past.

My arguments met with the desired results as the girls agreed with me, and stated that they are willing to do their utmost towards increasing the production.

At 1 P.M. I resumed my work for the afternoon.

During the afternoon Mr. Davis came up to repair the Union Special, and I observed the workers laughing, and I guessed the reason; it was the forelady from the bag room who had put in her appearance shortly after Mr. Davis entered. A

girl operator named Mattie came up to operate one of the machines. The machine kept snapping the threads until she had to give it up. I asked her if Mr. Davis had fixed it, and she replied that she did not think he could fix any machine.

I asked her if her machine in the bag room had been fixed. She replied that it had not.

She is leaving the mill to-morrow, but is coming back in a few weeks. When she informed me of this, I said to her that she should work in a more diligent manner inasmuch as the boys at the front are relying upon our work, and we must back them up, and buoy up their spirits, and the only way that we can impress upon them that we are standing solidly behind them is by working more diligently than in the past, without stopping a day, thus turning out more production which is so greatly needed by them.

She replied that I was right, but added that she had previously arranged to take this time off.

A young woman from the office working on the time sheets was in my department about four hours this afternoon, and left her own work. She stood talking to Mr. Coleman, he was showing her how to sew the brackets on the tents, which seemed to amuse them both.

Joe Yarber was also sewing brackets on tents telling Willis Robins that he would give him a chance, and Willis was therefore around talking to the girl from the office, and Mat-

tie.

I could not ascertain her last name, and neither did I overhear their conversation.

Nothing further worthy of comment occurred until 5:50 P.M., when we stopped work and left the plant.

During the evening I walked about town endeavoring to come in contact with some of my co-workers, but I did not meet any of them, and therefore returned to my room at 9:30 when I discontinued for the day."

Very truly yours,
SHERMAN SERVICE, INC.

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