

Op # 316.

Friday Jan 23-1920

Special work.

While on my way to the Plant this morning I met workman Pharr, of the Machine Shop, during the course of our conversation he told me that he heard some of the Machinists say that most of the Machinery was in very bad shape in the Plant, and that was the reason for so much repairing being done constantly, and if it was thoroughly gone over before it broke down completely then the Firm would save money both in repairs and time. Further remarked that he had seen a lot of hanging around in the different Departments and heard a lot of talk between the fellows that they were not satisfied with the working conditions, I asked him in what respect, and he said the wages were too small and the hours too long. Here I said as long as the Firm is paying the help by the hour there should be no dissatisfaction. This ended the subject.

Arrived at the Plant at 6-45-A-M- changed into my working clothes and hung around with the fellows in the Machine Shop, nothing of Interest was said.

7-A-M- the whistle blew and work was started, I went to the Boiler Room as did Helper Morrow, later the Mechanic showed up who is doing the repairs on the engine, after we had worked together a few hours, The Mechanic complained to The Machine Shop Foreman that he did not want Morrow around him as he was too ignorant and careless and absolutely knew nothing, and was not a safe man to have around the Plant. I heard Bewil the Foreman tell this Mechanic that he knew this fellow was no good, and he could hardly get anything out of him. Why have a man of this kind on the Payroll, and around Machinery where he makes it dangerous for himself and those he is working with.

Machinist Price was then assigned to work with us, This man is a very good conscientious hard working fellow, and knows his business. Garrison and Price engaged in a conversation in which a Mr Fowler the Former Mechanic's Name was mentioned they both agreed that if a man similar to Fowler could be procured in place of Watkins the Machinery in General would be in far better condition and the help throughout the Mill would be more pleased, as it seems nobody has any use for Mr Watkins, Since I have been in the Plant I have not heard a single workman say a good word about this man.

About 11-45 A-M. I noticed a crowd of colored help and a few white people standing at the Main Entrance Gate, I assumed they were waiting for the 12 o'clock whistle to blow.

At noon I had lunch with Price, Godfrey, Gremli and Roach, These fellows seemed to think that Babil Foreman of the Machine Shop done too much chasing around the Plant and did not spend enough time in the Machine Shop, which was a loss of time to the Firm in the fellows having to stand around waiting for orders.

Upon returning to the Plant I hung around the Carpenter shop with some of the Carpenters, They claimed that they were always busy as there was only a few of them and for that reason never had a chance to kill any time, I took particular notice that there was not a single electric light burning during the Lunch hour in the Carpenter Shop.

During the morning and afternoon both the Safety valves were popping off in the Boiler Room about the same as Yesterday and Price remarked that the Firemen had no respect for Expenses or they would not shovel a Ton of Coal in the Boilers at a Time.

I heard a conversation relative to some body almost being hit by one of the elevators during the morning. They struck their head under the gate or through a hole in one of the gates and the Elevator was within a foot of striking them on the head. I would suggest that cloth signs be printed prohibiting any body from raising the gates or touching any of the apparatus belonging to any of the Elevators, and have these signs tacked in all gates as a precaution to all employees.

During the afternoon Gibbs the Timekeeper in the Machine Shop told me that I had been credited by the lost Clerk from the Office with having made Four Wheel-Barrows in a half day, I told him that was wrong as I had only assembled them, they were all in parts, he said he knew that but the Office had made it appear in their Books that I had made them in the Machine Shop.

The service is very bad in the Stockroom where supplies are kept for the Machine Shop, considerable time is lost there in having to wait until someone arrives to wait on you, and then they are very slow in getting you what your order calls for.

I returned to the Machine Shop at 5-35 P.M. and in a few minutes Bevil left to wash up, the men began washing up in Cell, and about 5-50 some of them started out of the shop for the washroom and when the whistle blew 6 P.M. not a man was in the Shop.

After washing up, I left the Plant, nothing more of interest was seen or heard and I discontinued.