

S-P-E-C-I-A-L W-O-R-K

REPORT OF OPERATIVE #1042.

Tuesday, April 29, 1919.

I met Mrs. Sarah Conboy and John Golden by appointment in New York at the hotel and later we proceeded to the office of the United Textile Workers. After I had talked over special matters regarding labor movements in Chattanooga, Tennessee, we discussed matters in Columbus, Graniteville and in reference to the situation in North Carolina. Golden said that the officials of the Textile Workers at Columbus, Georgia, had asked the International office if they would have any objections to the Union taking a vote on settlement of the issue between the workers and employers of the textile plants in that city. Golden, as President, wired them that he would not object. The proposition was placed before the Union Textile Workers at their meeting in Columbus in the following way:- They were asked, point blank, if they would accept 55 hours instead of 48 hours for a week's work, providing the mill owners would recognize the Union. This proposition was voted on and carried by the Union and later presented to the employers who accepted, and the strike was called off. The matter was submitted again to Golden and he wrote them that if they went back to work, it was with the understanding that they would not sign a contract under the 55 hour week and, in this way, holding off for a more opportune time of making a demand for a 50 hour week and another demand following this later, to be made for a 48 hour week. Golden said that he thought this demand was to be made in the fall when they were better prepared financially.

Conboy then talked about matters in Knoxville and said they were working satisfactorily for the present but that their demand would be made in Knoxville as soon as the proper time comes.

I was informed that Ledford is to handle Chattanooga and Graniteville, taking in the small places in between these points, Ledford has not made his appearance in Chattanooga yet and he may not come, inasmuch as Lindsay has been given a commission as Organizer by the United Textile Workers.

Golden stated to me that the Organization had spent this year to date, about \$117,000.00 in carrying on the fight, and he also said that this was very heavy and the funds were very low. He seemed to think that they were doing well but he said that where they were meeting with the most trouble was in the small plants. He said that they expected a heavy fight in the South and that the Southern autocrats could not get it out of their system that they could employ labor without making slaves of them. Golden predicted that the eight-hour day must come in the South and that the fight will be based accordingly.

With regard to the North Carolina situation; Golden stated that they had one or two competent Organizers working and that they were going to try and concentrate in the vicinity of Charlotte, Greensboro, and points in between. He said they were making a good headway here but were handicapped for Organizers. They are, however, using a great many small Organizers from local mills who were spreading the gospel among their fellow workers. He said he expected good results from this plan of action and as soon as their finances were in better shape, they would have

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stronger organizers follow and keep up the good work.

Golden told me not to mention this plan of action because if the information got out, then the mill owners might fore-stall it and it would hinder them very greatly.

After leaving Golden and Conbey, I proceeded back to Washington and got in touch with Mr. Frank Morrison and talked to him relative to the special matter in which I proceeded from Chattanooga to the point above. My report on this matter was covered under date of April 27th.