

S P E C I A L W O R K

Report of Operative #556.

Wednesday, March 19th, 1919.

Last night I interviewed Mr. UpChurch of #22 Cornelia Street, after his wife had gone back to work at the picture show on Decatur Street and he told me all about his work as truck driver for the Armour Packing Company, but I did not breach the subject of Unionism while talking to him and neither did he. This morning Mr. UpChurch went to work at 6 A. M. and so I sat and talked to his wife who told me that she had worked in La Grange at the Emergency Hospital, during the time the influenza was so bad there. She said she could make good money at nursing and that some of the Doctors wanted to send her to France, but as she had a family to look after and promised to go where ever they wanted her nearer home they were satisfied. Shespeke very good of the mill and told me about the last strike that was pulled off here. She said they pay good here, and that most all the weavers make good money. Told me that Mr. Florence had been here near about twenty years and that everybody spoke well of him and that any anything that Mr. Florence said can be depended on. She told me that this mill had been on the fifty four hours per week for about six months or since August of last year.

I reported at the shop at 7 A. M. and asked for Mr. Florence, but was told by one of the clerks that Mr. Florence was busy and he would do just as well, as I was seeking employment anyway. Mr. Florence came in while I was talking to the clerk and when he saw me he told the clerk that he would see what I wanted and so he filled out a contract and gave me the proper paper to admit me through the gate, and told me to go over to weave room #1 and see Mr. Hyder and if I could not get started there to try mill #2 and if not successful there to return to the office. I found mill #1 quick enough, but could not find Mr. Hyder, so easily. I went through the two lower weave rooms and at last found his Office on the third floor. All the weavers seemed to be working good and also the loomfixers, as

I could see none of them sitting around or loafing. On the third floor I noticed several standing around talking and also sitting around and leaving their machines run unattended. I located the overseer's desk and was informed that he was down to the Superintendent's Office, and that I would be more likely to find him in the weaverroom on the second floor. I went to the second floor and one of the weavers told me that he was running ferty of the small looms and that he could make about \$25 to \$30 per week. Mr. Hyder came along then and the weaver called him and told him that I was looking for him and so I interviewed Mr. Hyden, who asked me lots of questions and told me that he was pretty well filled up with help on all jobs. Two other men came along and he asked them if they could use a hand and they both replied that they could not at present anyway, so he at last told me to come back at 1 P. M. and he would find something for me and so I returned to the house at #22 Cornelia Street, and Mrs. Upchurch thought it was very strange that they would not start me to work. She asked me if I had signed my life away, when I signed the contract and told me that I should not mention anything that was said at the house to anybody at the mill. She said ofcourse she does not care, but it is most always best to keep your thoughts to yourself. She said she is just crazy about mill work, that she worked in this mill once and that she lost so mucy in weight while she was there that her husband became alarmed and forbid her ever going there to work again. She asked me lots of questions about my self and how I came here and if I was in the army and told me that she just loved men from the North. An elderly lady came in and I was introduced to Mrs. Simkins and then I knew that I was on the right track as this was the lady I had been told about, as the leader of the trouble makers. This old lady commenced at once about Unionism, and declared that she was sure that they had the eight hours in Columbus. She said she believes in Unionism from the back bone, and that all the people that were in the strike of the Railroad Clerks here were coming out again and that she expected to see all

the railroad employees join them. She said she likes to read all kind of wild stories, because she is wild herself. I reported at the shop at 1 P. M. and Mr. Hyder gave me a job as helper to R. T. Belk, who has charge of the tying and drawing in room. I found this man a good talker and a good worker also and he declared himself as being strictly in favor of unionism. He told me that they were going to lay off two of the drawing in hands soon, as most all of the changes were finished by this time. I went out and talked to some of the men on the slashers and also the size maker. I also talked to some of the weavers, but failed to gain anything of importance. At 5.30 P. M. I went to the slashers for a warp and found that they had all gone home. I left the shop at 6 P. M. and returned home.