

Alco, Louisiana
May 16, 1936
Saturday

I arrived in Alco, Louisiana this morning at 8:45 A.M. and proceeded to operate. The sawmill only operates five days weekly, eight hours daily; consequently, the mill crew, green chain men, timber dock men, drop stackers, kiln men, dry chain men and shed stackers were idle while the planer mill, send in men, and shipping department operated until 5:00 P.M.

Going into the lumber yards and sheds, I found and conversed with members of the send in crews, among whom were Tademy, Reeder, Green, Triplet, McCloud and Hardy. According to their statements, some had been in Alco since the former company owned and operated the plant, while others have not been here so long. However they claimed to be on a pay rating of 24 cents per hour, working nine hours some days, while at other times less, were treated well, and were well satisfied.

Going into the planer mill, I found the planer mill crew about equally divided (half whites and half colored) and while thereabout, contacted Butler, Hill, Harper, Peavy and Williams.

Butler and Hill are planer mill graders, and according to their statements, are on a pay rating of 33 cents per hour, have been with this company for quite a while, were treated fine and were well satisfied. Harper is a machine feeder, while Peavy assists in spotting loaded buggies around the machines, and according to their statements, Peavy's salary rating was 24 cents per hour, while Harper gave his at 28 cents per hour. That they were treated well, had no friction with the white employees thereabout, and were quite satisfied.

From the planer mill, I visited the car loading and shipping department where I found the crew about equally divided, and where thereabout, contacted and conversed with Ike Henderson or Anderson, and the two Lewis Brothers. According to their statements, they came to Alco with the company, were on a pay rating of 28 cents per hour, were satisfied with their pay rating, were treated well, but could not make regular time as some days they managed to work nine hours, while at other days, less.

Leaving the planer mill and limber yards, I turned my attention to the colored quarters and around the company's store, where I made contacts and conversed with various employees until 10:00 P.M.

Among those contacted and conversed with in the quarters and around the company's store were, Ben Davis, Ike Hartimon (Block setters), Gaines, Washington, Baptist (Edgeman), White (Dogger), Green, Beckhan (Green chain men), Henry (Log pond man), Tom Erwin (jump saw operator and trimmer loader), Jones (Trimmer saw loader), Williams, Sowles (Ford Drivers), Ben Jones, Miller, Vallery (Drop Stackers), Will Jackson, Lambert (log Cutters), Gray, Grisby (Steel Gang men), Patterson (Right of way cutter), Talbert (Office porter), and Short (Engineer and Fireman helper).

According to Ben Davis and Ike Hartimon's statements, they are block setters on a pay rating of 36 cents per hour, came here with the company from Meridian, Louisiana, were treated fine, could get almost any kind of favor from the company that was necessary and were well satisfied. That the general manager was a