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ABRASIVE CO.

August 30, 1918.

FROM: Idabelle Stevenson, Industrial Service Section,
Women's Branch, Philadelphia District.

TO: Industrial Service Section, Women's Branch,
Ordnance Office, Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT: Visit to Abrasive Co., Bridesburg, Pa. - Aug. 29, 1918.

1. REASON FOR VISIT

Mrs. Johnston of U. S. Employment Service at Frankford phoned asking representative of Women's Branch to go through plant with her re introduction of women. Mrs. Johnston herself was asked to come to plant by Mr. Sellers, employment manager.

2. PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Mr. Byers- General Manager
Mr. Ruppel- Assistant Works Manager
(Mr. Sellers failed to keep appointment with Mrs. Johnston)

3. CONTRACTS

No direct Ordnance contracts. Mr. Byers says practically all of their work is sub-contract government work and approximately 50% is on work used on Ordnance contracts. Manufacture grinding wheels.

4. PRODUCTION

Mr. Byers says they are slow on all production, due chiefly to shortage of labor and partly to difficulty in obtaining material. Product essential to war industries. Manufacture three kinds of grinding wheels, differentiated by kind of bond used, clay, shell or rubber.

5. SALIENT FEATURES

A. Working Force

300 men (approximately)
12 women (")

Labor supply drawn chiefly from Frankford District.

B. Hours

9 hours day for men and women
7 A.M. - 12 M. 12.45 - 4.45 P.M.
50-hour week
Women started at 35¢ per hour.

C. Plant Conditions

Modern brick structure. Not crowded- nature of work necessarily dusty- extensive exhaust system installed. Good light and ventilation.

Due to fact that plant manufactures three kinds of wheels of different sizes work is varied, involving handling of wheels, weighing from 2½ lbs. to 30 or 40 lbs.

D. Occupations on which women are employed

1. Filling molds
2. Shaving wheels
3. Molding semi-circular forms
4. Feeding crusher
5. Filling bags

Women are scattered throughout plant on these single processes. Work dirty and uninteresting. When women fill large molds or bags, lifting is done by men.

6. CONVERSATION WITH MR. RUPPEL re introduction of women in greater numbers

Have experienced difficulty in keeping women. Possibility of using approximately thirty women on above named processes under the following provisions: (1) That women be carefully selected to insure a heavy, rather phlegmatic type (2) That women be carefully followed up after being put to work to see that they are not attempting work beyond their strength and that a matron or forewoman be placed in charge of all women throughout plant (3) That suitable uniforms be provided for women and (4) That adequate rest and toilet facilities be installed. Present toilet facilities crowded and inaccessible to parts of plant where women are working.

IDABELLE STEVENSON
Women in Industry Branch