

REPORT

To: H. M. Raup, Director

Subject: Salaries of the Woods Crew members.

From: E.P. Stephens

Date: July 19, 1950

I have taken the opportunity to inquire at several industries in Athol concerning the various wage scales of their employees and the policies used in regard to sick leave, vacations etc.. Below is a summary of my findings.

General Manufacturing Co.- Wood-using industry primarily.

This industry has only three or four employees most of whom are transient. A straight hourly wage is enforced at the average of eighty-five cents an hour. No particular time is allotted for vacations, sick leave, etc.. Time and a half is paid for over-time, but this is very seldom since the Company is not that busy.

The qualifications of the men on our Woods Crew would lend themselves very adequately for a position in this industry. After one weeks instruction, if not sooner, any one of them could be doing an efficient job.

Tyler Sash and Blind Co.- Wood-using industry primarily.

This industry would employ perhaps one hundred and fifty men and women. The salaries vary with the type of work. An unexperienced individual would start at the minimum rate of seventy-five cents an hour. After a few weeks his salary would be increased at the discretion of the employer. At the present time, and this is only hearsay, the Company is hiring a great many displaced persons. The Company has a tendency to take advantage of this type of labor. Operators of sanding and moulding machines are paid from one dollar an hour to about a dollar and twenty-five cents. As far as I could learn, only those employees with long standings were entitled to paid vacations etc.. The labor here is quite transient, matter of fact I heard indirectly that the Company has a habit of firing an individual if he is due an increase in salary. The Company was referred to by one person as a "sweat shop".

Any of our men on the Woods Crew could efficiently handle any of the jobs offered by this industry, with perhaps the exception of some of the more intricate machinery.

Athol Highway Department:

The jobs offered by this particular organization are as follows:

Laborers-----eighty to ninety cents an hour

Construction handy man-----one dollar an hour

Foreman-----one dollar and ten cents an hour

Heavy equipment and truck operators-----one dollar and twenty cents an hour

Mechanic-----one dollar and a quarter

The labor is on a straight forty-eight hours per week basis. No sick leave is provided, but the chief engineer uses his own judgement in such cases. Two weeks with pay per year is the present policy of the Department.

The general impression that I got from talking^{to} the operators of these various organizations was that labor supply is not one of their chief problems. The unemployment rate reached a new high in the city of Gardner since the end of the war. About one thousand persons were unemployed during the month of June.