

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
Washington, D. C.

GEORGIA COTTON MILLS FINED \$1,500 TOTAL IN WAGE-HOUR CASES

Fines totaling \$1,500 and probation for one year were imposed today upon the Eastman Cotton Mills of Eastman, Georgia, and Guy M. Vann, its vice-president and manager, for violations of the Wage and Hour law by Federal Judge William H. Barrett at Waycross, Georgia. The corporation also was ordered to pay back wages totaling about \$5,000 to its employees.

Both Vann and the corporation were convicted on their plea of nolo contendere to a 13-count criminal information filed by J. Saxton Daniel, United States District Attorney. The information charged one count of falsification of records; two counts of shipping into interstate commerce goods produced in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act; one of failure to keep adequate records and nine counts of failure to comply with the textile wage order establishing a minimum wage of $32\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour. The information was based on evidence furnished by inspectors of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

The corporation was fined \$1,000 on the first count and sentence was suspended on the remaining 12 counts. The corporation was placed on probation for a year, one condition of the probation being to observe the law in the future. Another condition was the payment of all back wages at the rate of \$1,000 a month, beginning in January, until the total of approximately \$5,000 has been paid.

Vann was fined \$500 on the first count and imposition of sentence on the remaining counts suspended. He also was placed on probation for a year not to violate the Act further. Both fines were paid immediately.

The falsification charge against Vann and the corporation set forth that the mills employed women workers, showing on the records payment to them of the correct minimum wage for the correct number of hours as required by the Act. However, the information charged, they were forced to split their wages with helpers employed for them by the mills. The result was that each received only half a minimum legal wage.