The Story of My Life by "Billie Button"

CHAPTER IX. How the Wisconsin Pearl Button Company provides for the Well-being of its Employees

A COMPLETE record is made of every button produced in the factory, and the percentages of each of the different grades are carefully checked. Double Inspection in the Grading Room secures marvelous uniformity in each of the different grades ("firsts," "seconds," "thirds" and "fourths") marketed.

In spite of its traffic with the murderous Clammers, the Wisconsin Pearl Button Company is a human and HUMANE institution. It believes in looking after the welfare of its employees; sees that they work under the best sanitary and moral conditions, and have the opportunity to participate fairly in the results of their labor.

In all departments of the factorythe compensation of the worker varies with the amount of work performed. The minimum wage scale paid is ample for decent and comfortable living, while increased production gets substantial recognition in the weekly pay envelope. Its liberal treatment of its workers has developed efficiency and quality in the highest degree.

Here's one example of the way in which the progressive factory looks after the well-being of its employees:

A miniature hospital ward, fully equipped with all the necessary appliances, has been fitted up at the factory and placed in charge of a trained nurse. Employees who are taken ill or meet with accidents are cared for in this ward at the Company's expense. This nurse also examines all girls who apply for employment at the factory, to find out whether or not they are in physical condition for the work.

This Pearl-Button family of ours is a big family, I tell you. The Wisconsin Pearl Button Company sends out ten different sizes of us, twelve different patterns in both two-hole and four-hole buttons, and eight different grades. Take your pencil and figure this out and you'll see that right here there are over 1900 different branches of our family tree.

Wisconsin TRADE MARK