



# Speedup Bilks Migrants of Pay

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worse. After I waited my turn—hours it seemed—I stepped inside and right into a wall of stench which turned my stomach. It was too much. I went outside.

I learned many other things. During the peak of the potato harvest in Florida, men and women are worked on the grader for as long as 15 hours daily. Some of the women told me they were paid only 40 cents an hour.

I found an 11-year-old boy who was working 10 hours a day loading 100-pound potato sacks onto trucks in the grading yard.

The Federal Labor Standards Act of 1938, I was aware, prohibits child labor under 16 at establishments producing goods for interstate or foreign commerce.

A Florida law prohibits child labor under 16 except after school hours or during school vacations. The children I saw here were working in April when the schools were in session.

## Work Till Midnight.

At another grading shed in Hastings I found 9 and 10-year-olds loading the 100-pound potato sacks. They were working after school hours all right—from 3 p.m. until midnight!

John Kemp, owner of the ramshackle rooming house

where I lived, for a while, told me:

"Nothin' unusual about kids workin' down here. I got four boys—9, 10, 13 and 14—all workin' in the potato fields every day after school until it gets dark. They pay seven cents a hundred pounds. When me and my wife and the boys all work, we can make \$17 or \$18 a day."

In Hastings, I learned, there are schools for children of year-round residents but none for children who come into town with their parents to work on the season."

So these latter youngsters, despite the laws aimed at protecting them, move from farm to farm with their parents and work right along with them in the fields.

It's dirty, rotten work for adults; let alone children.

## TOMORROW!

If Florida was bad,  
South Carolina was  
worse!

## Police Probe Migrant's Death

Suffolk County Police are awaiting a medical report on the death of a migrant farm worker whose body was found in a field at St. James, L. I., yesterday.

The dead man was identified as Fablan Torres Diaz, 35, of Kennett Square, Pa. He had been working on a farm owned by John Beck, Halleck Rd., St. James. Police said death apparently was due to exposure.