PACIFIC COAST UNIONS GAIN METAL TRADES RECOGNITION

Tacoma, Wash, Mar. 1.—A greater measure of support and recognition was won by Pacific Coast Office Employees Unions and Pacific Coast District Metal Trades Council recently held in this city. The convention adopted a plan to organize of all workers in shipyards on that coast as well as the movement of organized office workers under our International Convention throughout the entire country.

Black and Decker Election a Pushover

Kenz, Ohio, Mar. 23.—The National Labor Relations Board today certified Office Employees Union No. 23236 as the exclusive bargaining agency for all office employees of the Black and Decker Company of this city. NLRC certification was based upon the results of an election held March 19 among those workers 80% of all votes cast by these workers favored representation by Local 23236, showing the overwhelming desire of these workers for collective bargaining as the means to improving their wages and working conditions.

Covered in the certification are all employees in the accounting, cashiers, payroll, sales, service, production, material control, purchasing, personnel, stores, receiving, shipping, experimental, mechanical engineering, and time-study departments of the company, excluding supervisory employees, department managers who have the authority to hire and discharge, and district attorneys.

Immediately following the election and certification steps were taken to formulate a proposed working agreement to present to management. The officers of the International Convention have assisted the local in gathering and processing information needed in drawing up the proposed agreement and have been requested to inspect and report the completed draft before it is submitted to officers of the Company.

Initial steps to organize this group were taken by A. F. of L. Organizers and the last December. Much credit goes to President Joseph Horvath of the Local for the quick and successful organization of these workers and the overwhelming vote cast in the election.

Basic Magnesium Workers Organizing

Las Vegas, Nev., April 5.—Office workers employed by the largest magnesium plant in the United States, located in Las Vegas, are now in the process of organizing under the leadership of Wesley L. King, A. F. of L. organizer. This local promises to be one of the largest and strongest on the Pacific coast. A. F. of L. leaders have here uncovered leadership among the office workers of unusual talent. Membership is doubling with each meeting.

Temporary officers have been set up and it is hoped to elect permanent officers within the next two weeks. Headquarters for Local No. 23950 have been established at the El Cortez Hotel, Las Vegas, under the direction of A. F. of L. Organizer Wesley L. King.

When this A. F. of L. office employees union is fully organized, it will present a 100% force of workers. Such a force under the auspices of the A. F. of L. at Basic Magnesium, Inc. There is already in force a successful company agreement between the A. F. of L. and the company covering production and maintenance work within the plant.

As is usually the case, there are innumerable possibilities for improvement of wages and working conditions among the office workers at this plant, which are waiting for their benefit under union bargaining procedure.

Colgate-Palmolive Office Organizes

Jeffersonville, Ind., Mar. 30.—Following an earlier lead taken by their fellow workers in the production side of their plant, office workers of the Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Company of this city have turned to organization under the American Federation of Labor as the only means of improving their wages and working conditions. Seeing at first hand the benefits which the factory workers derived through collective bargaining, they decided to form a union of their own in order to enjoy similar benefits.

Spokesmen for the group took their request for assistance to the office of Secretary Edward H. Weyer of the Kentucky State Federation of Labor in nearby Louisville, where quick results and action were obtained through the assistance of Assistant Secretary Leo F. Lucas. President Hicks of our International Council was called upon to contact the group and bring about its successful organization. After meetings with representatives of the employees, meetings were held for the entire group which shortly led to the successful organization of a substantial majority of those concerned.

An Office Employees Union charter (Continued on Page 4)}
We Can Do The Job

Delegates to our Chicago convention last July will recall the frank and inspiring address of President William Green. He frankly outlined some of our problems of organization and the educational work necessary to overcome them. May I also say that "our policy must be to make the drive, to carry the message, to tell them the truth, and build up the American Federation of Labor's economic philosophy; to prevail upon them to come in and be a part of the Great International, the American Federation of Labor."

"And I believe you can do this job. Collectively we have taken on this job and are succeeding. Building a strong, functioning union of the millions of office workers spread throughout the North American continent is no exception. Quite the contrary. In speaking of this at our convention President Green said:

"Somebody might say that this is a stupendous task, but it is, every organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor is just as strong as we make it. It's not going to build itself. We must use our time and energy vigorously, unselfishly, to make the drive, to carry the message, to tell them the truth, and to sell to them the economic philosophy of the American Federation of Labor."

"We must prevail upon them to come in and be a part of their local union of the International of Office Employes Unions of the American Federation of Labor."

"Our job is a big one but we can and will do it, member by member, by the Board of Directors, and us embracing the work of the millions of workers of our trade who will benefit by our collective achievements.

BROTHELD OF RAILWAY CLERKS

Cincinnati, Ohio, Mar. 17—President George M. Harrison of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks today assured our International Council President Hicks of the full and unquestioned support of his largest International Union.

Plats were mapped for the exchange of information and material between the two Internationals which should result in valuable assistance to both and a further cementing of the close alliance between them. Brother Harrison's organization is now in its 44th year of activity to the credit of clerical and allied workers and has a remarkable record in the achievement of collective bargaining for railroaders.

The former organization is composed of clerical and allied workers employed by railroads, steamship, bus and air lines coming under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Commerce and other governmental agencies functioning in transportation, as well as mutual relief associations of the United States. It also has members in Canada, Mexico and other possessions of the United States.

President Harrison is looked upon by his fellow brotherhood leaders as a man of outstanding knowledge of organized labor in this country and is highly respected by officials of other labor organizations as well as industrial and governmental officials in general. He is a member of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, and has proven himself to be an intelligent, able and aggressive member of that body.
Pacific Coast Unions

Goodwin, Local No. 20798, Los Angeles, has been succeeded by Fred Smith, the new chairman of the Local. The previous chairman, J. A. Kulper, has been replaced by a new chairman who is responsible for the operation of the office of employees in the shipyards of the Kaiser Co., Inc., at Vancouver, Wash.

Comparatively small numbers of workers in administration and personnel offices of the many yards are now represented by the OEU locals and it is anticipated that little difficulty will be encountered in expanding the number of locals in these offices. A majority of similar workers when organized will have two locals and have completed their tasks.

The Portland local recently completed organization and negotiation of an agreement covering employees of Commercial Iron Works, builders of naval vessels, in that city. Because of the large increase in wages necessary to bring these new members up to the standards prevailing in other shipyards, officers of this local have petitioned the War Labor Board for approval of the prevailing rates to employees of the company. This request has recently received by the WLB for its Shell Shipbuilding Commission.

Pudahah Plans Organizing Drive

Pudahah, Ky., Mar. 22.—The home town of the noted writer and humorist was recently visited by officers and active labor organizations and no less of this is Local No. 23183, which today announced plans for the organization of office and clerical workers of the Atlas Tower Company.

With the approach of the Easter holidays, an active organizing campaign is now being undertaken in this group of workers. An active member of Local No. 23183, which today announced plans for the organization of office and clerical workers of the Atlas Tower Company.

Public safety employees of the company are also readily grasping organization and should be shortly be issued a charter under the A. F. of L. and affiliated with our International Council.

At full operation the plant will employ about 5,000 workers and will be the largest single industry in the city.

Canadians Affiliated with Council

Washington, D. C., March 17.—Council officers announced that they have received notice from the International Office of Stenographers, Typists, Bookkeepers and Assistants Union, No. 11771, of Vancouver, B. C., Canada, that increased necessary affiliation forms and money were received from Secretary V. Gill- mer of that local. The affiliation of Local 11771 marks another step forward in our International organization, which now extends to both of the principal nationalities on the North American continent.

Baltimore Local Wins Wage Increase

Baltimore, Md., April 6.—The National War Labor Board acted on March 24 and raised the rate of additional wages of from $1 to $4 per week for the 11 office workers employed by the National Canners Association in the city. Baltimore Local 2046 brought this case to the War Labor Board after a long struggle for satisfactory wage adjustments. The case was referred by the WLB to its Referee Ralph B. Spencer, who recommended his recommendations to the Board on November 26. The Referee adopted these recommendations without change. Three workers receive $1, $2, and $3 per week, and four receive $4. Present rates with the increase range from $2 to $4 per week.

Local 2046 won a bargaining right for these workers in an election conducted by the NLRB. Since March of last year, 100% of the workers are in favor of the union.

Chattanooga Locals Busy

Chattanooga, Tenn., Mar. 30.—Caught in the crest of the growing wave of organization of all workers in southern states, Office Employees Union No. 22990 and Public Safety Service Employees Union No. 22900, both affiliated with our International Council, are concluding successful campaigns to organize office employees in the shipyards of the Kaiser Co., Inc., at Chattanooga.

Both of these locals have presented an agreement covering 225 office employees of the company. Some of the major objectives of this agreement are payment of overtime for all over eight hours per day and forty hours per week, and the restoration of pay for overtime worked since the issuance of the President’s order establishing it, which has not been complied with by the company. Several other provisions of the agreement include, among others, job security, a 40-hour week, a 30-day paid vacation, and a paid sick leave of 80 hours.

Fast Headway Attained in Kaiser Yards

Washington, D. C., Mar. 31.—Office Employees Union No. 20850, both of whom have been successful in organizing office employees in the shipyards of the Kaiser Co., Inc., at Seattle, Wash., have been received by the WLB for its Shell Shipbuilding Commission.

Comparatively small numbers of workers in administration and personnel offices of the many yards are now represented by the OEU locals and it is anticipated that little difficulty will be encountered in expanding the number of locals in these offices. A majority of similar workers when organized will have two locals and have completed their tasks.

The Portland local recently completed organization and negotiation of a new agreement covering employees of Commercial Iron Works, builders of naval vessels, in that city. Because of the large increase in wages necessary to bring these new members up to the standards prevailing in other shipyards, officers of this local have petitioned the War Labor Board for approval of the prevailing rates to employees of the company. This request has recently received by the WLB for its Shell Shipbuilding Commission.

Tacoma Wins Back Pay For 2 Members

Tacoma, Wash., Mar. 18.—The Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Corp. today reinstated with full back pay two members of Office Employees Union No. 20850, both of whom had been discharged last year in an effort to halt the organizational efforts of both the office and clerical workers. Both of these employees were active members of Local No. 20850 and had been playing an active part in the organizing effort for the local organization of office and clerical workers employed by the Company.

The Company announced, however, that one of these workers was discharged for insubordination and the other for a personal reason. The action of the Company was shown by the WLB to the Seattle office of the National Labor Relations Board. This attempt of the Company to stymie organizing efforts of its members resulted from a typical of several less potent attacks made in the past. The Company’s action has been handled in a way of steadily organizing efforts the Company’s action appears to follow a desire for collective bargaining through Office Employees Union No. 20850.

Local union officials have stated that interest is increasing among these workers and it appears that the local can justifiably demand representation and exclusive bargaining rights in the near future.

Much of the credit for the successful organization of this yard is due George F. Firth, Secretary and Business Representative of Local No. 20850. His untiring efforts and the quality of the organizing material and information worked out by him for distribution to this group have been reflected in convincing them of their need for membership in their union.

GALVESTON WINS METAL ELECTION

Galveston, Tex., Mar. 8.—Local No. 20560 of Galveston recently successful in establishing bargaining rights for all office workers employed in the Texas City, Texas, plant of the Tin Processing Corporation. The election, held late in February, resulted in a larger than an 80 per cent vote for representation through the local union, thus establishing membership of 95 per cent in this office. Steps are now under way for the drafting of the agreement in this office. The agreement is to be negotiated with the management of this concern.

With present membership of employees of brewing company offices, as well as other concerns, the addition of the office employees of the Tin Processing Company will enable this local to accelerate its organizing activities among other office workers in this city.

Delegates to the last convention of the International Council will reconsider the recommendation that the chairman of the local, who is president of the company, is not affiliated with the local, and who so affiliated at the meeting. Brother Bettenourt is currently recovering from a minor illness and can recommend his active participation in the next meeting.
Council Assists Local

Santa Rita, N. M., Mar. 19.—Our International Council endeavored today to do a service for the local, the remotest local union of office and clerical workers in the United States, which it promoted information about wage structures and working conditions of other similarly organized workers in the membership, the membership of Local No. 22906 in this seldom visited region of southwestern New Mexico. The members were employed by copper mining concerns far removed from heavily traveled roadways but have, in their first agreement, established wages which would attract some of workers in larger communities.

This local, though small, is aggresive and determined and at present is preparing for renewal of its current agreement several months hence at which time the officers and membership hope to negotiate considerable further improvements in working conditions.

Outlook For Shipyard
Premium Pay Bright

Washington, D. C., Mar. 21.—With the full approval of the Navy Department and the Maritime Commission, the building Stabilization Committee of the War Production Board today agreed to request of the Shipbuilding Council of the National War Labor Board that shift premium pay be allowed for clerical workers in the same basis as is allowed metal craftsmen.

Shoremen of the shipbuilding industry, W.F.L., which has the say over increases or adjustments in pay for shipyard workers, approved the request, which will herald the successful conclusion of a campaign started a year and a half ago by local unions of the International Council, marked by appearances of Council officers before vacation committees at frequent intervals, to secure the just treatment on this matter which should be accorded office and clerical employees in this industry. How long it will take for action to be forthcoming is still not certain but it is anticipated that the recommendation of the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee will carry with it the further recommendation that the office and clerical workers have the length of their shifts adjusted to correspond with those worked by production employees on all shifts. This point, however, was won for a great many shipyard clerical workers several months ago but will remain of importance in this area for those not yet so covered by such provision in union agreements.

When the members have a sum pay and the hours on shifts have been adjusted there will still be two other matters of concern, employment of women in the office and the locals in the shipbuilding industry. These are the questions of unification and rates paid and the local rates uniform rates of pay for such classifications throughout the industry. These questions have been discussed before the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee since November, 1942 and Council officials are to start them toward a satisfactory conclusion.

Local 23076 Launches Educational Program

New York, Feb. 26.—Office Employees Union 23076 today initiated its educational program with the first meeting of its committee studying Office Worker and the Trade Union Movement." This course, which has been planned to run from 8 to 9:30 weeks is designed to give members of the Local a comprehensive understanding of the principles and methods of union organizing in office workers.

Miss Orielle Pell of the Summer School of the American Labor Education Service was the guest lecturer at the first meeting. The local union, which is composed of office workers, pointed out the relative youth of the white collar worker in industry.

The evening proved an auspicious beginning, and bodes well for future meetings.

Louisville Workers
Win NLRB Election

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 19.—The National Labor Relations Board today certified Office Employees Union 22906 as the exclusive bargaining agent of all the time and one half compensation for time worked in excess thereof. The agreement formulated is the usual overtime payment.

This agreement was reached under the National Labor Relations Board Act and has the say for a healthy swing at the Arin this city under the leadership of its new president, Rose Grote, is making a strong bid for membership within its fold of office workers. Cincinnati Enquirer now members of an independent union.

Cincinnati Bids For Paper Employes

Cincinnati, Ohio, Mar. 16.—Local No. 22907 of this city under the leadership of its new president, Rose Grote, is making a strong bid for membership within its fold of office workers. Cincinnati Enquirer new members of an independent union.

Key West Workers Negotiating Wages

Key West, Fla., Mar. 22.—Office and clerical workers of the Mackie Lench Construction Company, employed at the station of the Naval Air station here, are strenuously objecting to working 40 to 50 hours per week without any compensation for hours worked in excess of 40 per week. Local No. 22906, of which these workers are members, has endeavored to negotiate an agreement with their employer but without success and the local representative of the Navy Department has turned a deaf ear to their request for alleviation of their unfair treatment.

President William A. Gleich of the Shipbuilding Council of the International Council for assistance in bringing about an adjustment and Council officers are now the matter up with proper government officials in Washington. An early settlement of this problem is hoped for.

Louisville, Ky., Mar. 10.—The agreement formulated by the membership of the local and presented to the company calls for a working week of 40 hours and one half compensation for time worked in excess thereof. The agreement, reached as the result of this agreement is $1.25 per hour for chief timekeepers. Retroactive compensation for past working time was also requested and is being pushed by Council officers in their demands for the usual overtime rates.

Cincinnati Enquirer has been unions at the station of the Naval Air station here, are strenuously objecting to working 40 to 50 hours per week without any compensation for hours worked in excess of 40 per week. Local No. 22906, of which these workers are members, has endeavored to negotiate an agreement with their employer but without success and the local representative of the Navy Department has turned a deaf ear to their request for alleviation of their unfair treatment.

President William A. Gleich of the Shipbuilding Council of the International Council for assistance in bringing about an adjustment and Council officers are now the matter up with proper government officials in Washington. An early settlement of this problem is hoped for.

L. A. Members Have Unique Honor

Los Angeles, Calif.—Members of Local No. 20798 employed by Calco Industries, Inc., have just been received an agreement with the Federal Maritime Commission and the management of the Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph Publishing Company the final phase of this agreement for the coming year was settled. While considerable delay was experienced after the previous period reached the hands of NWLB the increase in salaries is retroactive to January 1st.

One of the outstanding features of this agreement covering the office and clerical employees of this company is the severance of service pay and a maximum call for the equivalent of a 15 percent increase per annum. This marks an increase in the salary paid in a lump sum to $200 per month, which is considered very high by present standards, leaving the employment of the company.

Colgate-Palmolive
(Continued from page 1)

has been requested and obtained from the National Labor Relations Board for this city and it is anticipated that the aggressive attitude shown by this company will lead to the renewal of other office workers in this city.

The International Council has petitioned the National Labor Relations Board for an election to certify our bargaining rights. Mean-

Milwaukee Local Signs Renewed Agreement

Washington, D. C., April 5.—Office Employees Union No. 23076 has recently received War Labor Board approval to its renewed contract with the Milwaukee Shipbuilding Corporation. The Agreement is effective retroactive to December 9, 1945 and establishes wages in excess of $1 and $2 per week over the rates prevailing in the previous contract. It also provides for two weeks vacation with full pay for employees with one year or more of service with the company. Sick leave is provided, and all overtime is compensated for at time-and-a-half the regular rate.

Financial Secretary-Easurer Alice Hois of Local 16456 also reports that as a result of an arbitration case, the members of the local employed by this company were granted overtime pay for overtime worked during the war. The employer had refused to pay the overtime but the arbitrator found that the members were entitled to it and ordered its payment. Members of the local received anywhere from $5 to $100 in settlement.

The Milwaukee local has filed copies of all of its current agreements with the War Labor Board. This practice should be followed by all locals. It enables Council officers to have an accurate knowledge of the interchange of valuable information and to build up wage and working conditions for all sections of the country which is of the utmost value.

BUY WAR BONDS EVERY PAY DAY