Struthers-Wells Corp.

Agreement Signed

Washington, D. C., Sept. 20.—A joint collective bargaining agreement covering office workers, including clerical and draftsmen employed in the design work division of the Struthers-Wells Corp. of Titusville, Pa., was ratified today by President John B. Pratt of the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions, and by Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Rutbungs of our International Council.

This agreement between the company and Draftsmen's Local Union No. 52 and our Local No. 23066, was negotiated by A. F. M. Rutbungs, R. A. Warner and Vice President John L. Reimist of the I. F. T. E. A. and D. unions, with the assistance of Commissioner Steinbrook of the U. S. Conciliation Service.

The agreement, which covers recognition of the unions and which establishes their maintenance of membership, also includes all of the working rules exclusive of classifications and wage rates. Failing to reach a satisfactory mutual agreement governing minimum wage rates and other classifications, the parties agreed that they would submit those issues to a hearing officer of the War Labor Board.

The agreement does provide, however, that the work classifications and minimum wage rates shall be established in accordance with the ruling of the War Labor Board, and that they will be retrospective to September 1, 1943.

Cleveland Organizes American Ship Corp.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 12.—According to information just received from Pearl Hanna, business representative of Cleveland Local No. 19 of the organization, 60 office and clerical workers at the nearby Lorain, Ohio, yards of the American Shipbuilding Corp, is rapidly progressing. A substantial majority of the workers of our trade employed by this company have signed up with our Local 1966, and it is anticipated that the negotiations presently under way with this company by the various metal trade organizations may expand so as to include the office and clerical force as well.

Local 1966 is receiving the wholehearted support and cooperation of the various A. F. of L. organizations whose members are employed in this yard.

British Union Reports Big Membership Gain

Present membership of the British Trades Union Congress is 6,500,000 as against 6,350,000 at the end of 1941, a gain of 1,500,000, according to an unofficial estimate in the annual report of the congress.

New Kaiser Ship Agreement Signed

By Portland and Vancouver Locals

St. Louis Wins NLRB Election

Milwaukee, Wis., Oct. 1.—The educational committee of the Federated Trades Council of this city has again made arrangements for the operation of the Milwaukee Labor College this year.

Members and officers of A. F. of L. unions will have an opportunity to study under competent instructors a variety of subjects including labor and public opinion, world labor events, labor's role in World War II, and what will be a series of courses in parliamentary law and in collective bargaining. Consideration is also being given to the establishment of a course in operating techniques for unions.

The college will operate on a 2-semester basis. The first 8 weeks semester will start October 18, with the second semester of 10 weeks starting January 10, 1944.

Labor College Courses Planned

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 1.—Office employees at Keasby & Mattison asbestos shingle plant in St. Louis voted over 10 to 1 in the NLRB election last week in favor of representation through office employees Local 1707, according to the announcement made by A. F. of L. Organizer Mary E. Ryder, who took a prominent part in the organization of this office.

A. F. of L. Organizer John R. Barr also gave an aggressive campaign, as did also the members of the Cement, Lime and Gypsum Local No. 36, which has long had satisfactory contractual relationships with the company.

The office of the president presents another step in an aggressive campaign being carried on by Local 1707 to thoroughly organize the office employees in the St. Louis area.

Credit Union Sells $100,000 War Bonds

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 7.—The Federal Credit Union of Local 30890 of this city, proudly announced today that it has sold more than $100,000 worth of war saving bonds during the past 18 months. The local union has done a splendid service of its office equipment and staff as its contribution to this good work of its Credit Union.
Introducing—Council Officers

Washington, D. C., Oct. 15.—In response to many requests The Office Workers sets forth below in brief detail pertinent facts about the officers of the International Council as will prove of interest to its readers:

President, J. Howard Hicks, a member of Local No. 18921 of Portland, Ore., who was unanimously reelected for the coming year, served for a number of years prior to assuming the present position with our Council in 1922, as secretary-treasurer of his local. Prior to that time he served his local as vice president, an executive board member, and took an active part in Portland Central Labor Council and at conventions of the State Federation of Labor.

Secretary-Treasurer, Paul R. Hutchings, is a member of Local No. 11778 of Washington, D. C., and while working at our trade served as President of this local for four years prior to his election as Secretary-Treasurer of the Council in 1942. Hutchings has had wide experience and is very conversant in labor matters. He was unanimously reelected to his council post at the recent convention.

Vice President Lawrence G. Nygren is a member of Local No. 1706 of Minneapolis, Minn., and has served his local as financial secretary and business representative for the past 3 years. He benefited through past trade union experience prior to becoming a member of Local No. 1706.

Vice President Mildred Eriksen, a member of Local No. 16304 of Seattle, Wash., presently serving as business representative of that local, is a member of a long standing with this union and has had wide experience in labor circles in the Pacific Northwest.

Vice President Mollie Levitas, a member of Local No. 20732, Chicago, III., can claim longer labor experience than any other officer of our International Council, and she has been active for many years in the Chicago Federation of Labor where she has been employed. She is also corresponding secretary of her local, which position she has held for a number of years.

Vice President, George P. Firth, is a member of Local No. 20380, Tacoma, Wash., who has served as secretary-treasurer and business representative for the past 6 years. Firth has had wide experience in the Tacoma labor movement and has occupied prominent positions with the local central labor union and is an outstanding source of workers’ education.

Vice President, E. Howard Fritts, a member of Local No. 22899 of Hixassee Dam, N. C., has been an active member of the council for some years. Recently he was selected to represent the local unions of salaried employees within the TVA by the Office, Technical and Service Employees Council of which he is secretary-treasurer.

Vice President Carl F. Nelson is a member of Local No. 20744 of Oakland, Calif., and has been business representative of his local for the past 4 years. He has also been active in affairs within the Alameda County Central Labor Union, with which his local is affiliated.

Vice President Ethyl M. Williams is a member of Local No. 21427, Columbus, Ohio, and served her local faithfully as president since shortly after its inception. She has had wide experience in labor and has proved a capable representative in behalf of local unions in the State of Ohio at sessions of the Ohio legislature.

Vice President, Alice Holz, is a member of Local No. 16466 of Milwaukee, Wis., and has for a number of years been an active member of that local union, serving in numerous capacities playing a bulwark of strength in behalf of organized labor. She is presently serving as chairman of the organizing committee of her local, and at this writing is carrying out her duties as financial secretary-treasurer of her union.

Vice President Howard J. Coughlin is a member of Local No. 20576 of New York City, and is presently assigned as an organizer for the AFL to service the needs of members of our craft in the area immediately adjacent to New York City. Prior to assuming his present position Coughlin was business manager of his local union and is responsible to a large degree for the growth which it has made since its inception.

Local 18177 Forging Ahead in Canada

Vancouver, B. C., Can., Oct. 11.—Organization of office and clerical workers in this metropolis of western Canada if forging ahead at an ever increasing pace according to statements of officers of Local No. 18177 to their office in Washington, D. C., at recent convention of our International Council meeting here.

Under direction of AFL Organizer William Wilson Local No. 18177 has, during recent months, been busily engaged in the organization of members of our craft employed by the British Columbia Electric Power & Gas Co., and the British Columbia Telephone Co.

Local department and retail stores as well as service industries employing office and clerical workers are receiving serious consideration from the local union the announce ment pointed out.

Local Represented at Quebec Meeting

Vice President Jessie Ross of Local No. 18177 represented her union at the recent convention of the Central Trades and Labor Congress held in Quebec. She served the convention as president of the local union’s legislative committee, in which field she has had considerable experience during her long connection with British Columbia labor circles.

Extreme interest in the progress and welfare of sister unions in this country is evident among officers and members of the local union and it is found that problems confronting hundreds of our craft in both countries are the same. backlight for organization of workers of our trade in Canada is no less than in the United States. Free and open discussion of proposals and problems evident in the local union prevails throughout the balance of the convention with the result that members of Canada can be expected to equal if not exceed their fellow workers to the south.
The Office Worker

**Wage-Hour Committee Recommends Highest Minimum for Office Workers**

Council Officers Participate in Determining Recommendation

New York, N. Y., Oct. 14.—At a meeting held today at the Victoria Hotel in this city, an industry committee established by the Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Labor Department to study and make recommendations relative to the minimum rate to apply under the Wage and Hour Law to employes in the finance, insurance, real estate, motion picture and miscellaneous industries, unanimously recommended to the administrator of the Wage and Hour Act that the legal minimum for these industries be raised from the present 30-cent rate prescribed by the law, to 40 cents per hour, the highest minimum which may be established by the Wage-Hour Law.

Officers of our International Council took an active part in the determinations of the committee. Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings and Council Vice President L. G. Nygren were appointed and served as labor members on the committee, and Council Vice President Howard Coughlin testified before the committee on behalf of our International Council and its affiliated local unions.

The committee, which was named by Wage and Hour Administrator L. Metcalfe Walling, consisted of 18 members, 6 representing the public and 6 each representing labor and the employers. In addition to Secretary-Treasurer Hutchings and Vice President Nygren, the AFL membership on the committee included Brother David Sullivan of the Building Service Employees International of New York City, Dr. John A. Lapp of Chicago, one of the public members of the committee served as chairman.

Our International Council made the only public appearance before the committee. Vice President Howard Coughlin pointed out to the committee that the members of our organization had "no direct monetary interest in establishing a 40-cent minimum wage rate for the clerical and office workers in those industries, since each collective bargaining agreement we have entered into provides for far in excess of 40 cents per hour as the minimum wage rate, and further provides for payment of overtime at time and one-half or double the regular rate at which our members are employed."

Brother Coughlin also stated, however, that we were keenly interested in the determinations of the committee, in that we are speaking for 170 local unions under the jurisdiction of our International Council and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, which are composed exclusively of office and clerical workers.

The real estate industry did make an attempt to have the committee consider it separately from the other industries. However, this request was voted down and thereafter the committee, without dissent, took action to recommend to the administrator that the top legal minimum of 40 cents per hour be established as the minimum wage rate under the law.

The action was taken at the 1942 convention and it was reported that similar action taken at the 1942 convention had established the legal minimum wage rate for office and clerical workers.

The American Federation of Labor was represented by Arnold Hicks at the convention. Hicks explained that the American Federation of Labor acts as the major union for industrial workers, and that it is the policy of the union to support the legal minimum of 40 cents per hour established by the Wage and Hour Act.

Buy 25 Four-Motored Bombers

Wage-Hour Law.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 16.—The third annual convention of the International Council of Cemhal and Allied Industries Unions concluded in this city today amidst signs which bode well for its continued outstanding success in the future. Approximately 100 delegates were in attendance representing affiliated unions throughout the entire nation.

Enthusiastic acclaim was given President H. A. Bradley of the International Council following his report to the convention on the progress of the council and its affiliated unions during the preceding year.

Increased action directed toward obtaining an international union charter was probably the principal interest of the convention, and all delegates pledged themselves and their unions to work diligently in this direction. The no-strike pledge of the American Federation of Labor was reaffirmed by this convention, and it was reported that similar action taken at the 1942 convention had established the legal minimum wage rate for office and clerical workers.

Portland Wins Wage Increases

Portland, Ore., Sept. 16.—According to an announcement made today by Irving Ethridge, a labor organizer, the War Labor Board last week approved wage increases amounting to more than $2 per week for the members of the local employed in the offices of the retail grocery industry of this city.

The increase allowed by the board amounts to an average of approximately 12 percent and the award is retroactive to February 15, 1941. Approximately 125 members of the local will benefit by these gains.

TV A Workers Help In War Bond Drive

Knoxville, Tenn.—According to reports from Vice President H. F. Fuchs of our International Council, the average payroll deductions of the TVA salaried employees for the purchase of war bonds is approximately 15 percent, which is the highest rate of bond deductions existing in any government agency. The veterans are proud of this record and of the part they are thus playing to help defeat the axis nations.

Sister Thelma Etheredge, who represented the TVA office employees at the dedication of the 25th bomber purchased by TVA office employees through their payroll deduction plan, was inaugurated Employee of the Month, TVA Workers Union No. 22733 at Watta Bar Dam, Tenn.

**Tacoma Holds Party-Dance**

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 7.—A "Pen-Pushers" party and dance was held September 25 and was well attended by the membership of Local 20860, as well as by a number of members of the local armed forces who were invited to participate in the fun.

Tacoma's Macabee's hall was decorated in a Hawaiian motif and leis were distributed to the dancers. The part was most successful and as proof of the enthusiastic support and interest shown, the active social committee of the local will continue its plans for monthly entertainment for local members.

The social committee, consisting of Lena Pietzau, Marj Norguy, Irene Williams and Dorothy Clark, is now busily engaged in planning the next event of the local's social season—a Halloween masquerade skating party to be heldOctober 29 at the Roller Bowl in Tacoma.
Job Plan for School Youth Curbed

Washington, D.C.—Three government agencies joined in a declaration against inclusion of school youth in any employment plan until other sources of labor have been exhausted.

The declaration was issued as a joint statement of policies and standards issued to guide urban communities in establishing part-time school and work program.

Signed by Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the War Manpower Commission; Katharine F. Lenroot, chief of the Children's Bureau of the Labor Department, and Paul D. Fairbanks, Commissioner of Education, the statement said:

"The first obligation of school youth is to take advantage of their educational opportunities in order that they may be better prepared for citizenship and for service to the nation."

Ship Named for Labor Leader

Portland, Ore., Sept. 10.—The launching recently of the SS Ben T. Osborne from the ways of the Oregon Shipbuilding Corp., in this city brought a lively ceremony to the members of many an Oregon labor leader witnessing the event. The ship was named after a beloved and respected executive secretary of the Oregon State Federation of Labor who died in 1930 while performing the duties of his position.

Befittingly, Virginia Flynn, a member of Local No. 21320 of this city and long an employee in the office of the State Federation, christened the vessel as it slid into the waters of the Willamette River to begin its journeys of mercy throughout the oceans of the world.

Seattle-Tacoma Negotiations Begin

Seattle, Wash., Oct. 1.—Negotiations are currently underway between representatives of the 1,500 member Seattle-Tacoma and 1,500 member of Tacoma and 1,500 member of Seattle with the management of the Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Corp., on an agreement applying to a majority of the production clerical workers employed in the two shipyards operated by the company.

Trend of negotiations to date would indicate that a substantial increase in hourly wages now paid workers covered by the agreements will be gained. Other benefits presently applying to organized members of our trade employed in this industry on the Pacific Coast are sought.

Representing the Seattle local is its Business Representative Mildred Erickson, while George P. Fitch, secretary-treasurer of the Tacoma union, is handling negotiations for workers employed in the company's operation in that city. Both are Vice Presidents of our International Council.

Wage Increase Won

Milwaukee, Wis., Oct. 1.—Negotiations leading to the wage increase ranging from $2.00 to $3.00 per week for skilled mechanics and clerical employees are still unsettled and meetings of the parties are being held in an attempt to bring them together under the terms of a mutually satisfactory agreement.

The union's negotiations for its members employed in the wholesale drug industry are still continuing, and it is hoped that a mutually satisfactory agreement on wages may shortly be reached.

Minneapolis Wins Representation Vote

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 30.—Local Union No. 17661 won another significant victory this week when it obtained exclusive bargaining rights for the shop and other employees of the United Transfer Co. of this city. According to the announcement of business representatives, the union obtained more than 85 percent of all votes cast by these workers, thus establishing exclusive bargaining rights with this company.

Many of next year's brides will wear wedding rings from dime stores or dispense with the traditional evidence that the marital knot has been tightly tied.

The War Production Board has restricted the use of gold to half of 1941 consumption. The forecast is for an output of not more than 750,000 rings, if marriages are expected to top 2,000,000.

F.D.R. Lauds AFL, Pledges Rollback

Boston—President Roosevelt praised labor's voluntary contributions to the war effort and pledged action to reduce the cost of living in his message to the AFL's 63rd annual convention. He said:

"Please accept my sincere thanks for your invitation to attend and address the Sixth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor in Boston on October fourth. I am sure you will understand that the heavy duties of the present moment make it impossible for me to accept this invitation."

"I desire, however, to take this opportunity to extend to the officers and members of the Federation my cordial greetings on the occasion of the convention. Please assure those in attendance and all of the convention membership of my gratification at the splendid task that has been done by American wage earners in turning out the munitions and implements of war. The battle of production is being won in every shipyard, machine shop, factory and construction outfit in this country; and the skill, speed and adaptability of American working men and women have made possible the outfitting and equipment of our military forces in record time. The participation of the wage earners of this country, only in the production drive, but in the support of the war effort by the purchase of war bonds, both out of union treasuries and out of personal subscriptions, is one of the items of which we are justly proud. In a free country we are proving ourselves able to do voluntarily all that is necessary for the support of the great war effort and to stand back of the brave men who go into combat."

"And while I express my gratification for what you have done in the past, I know that you will share with me the expectation and the challenge that American labor will do more and more until every necessity is met, until every battle is fought, until the victory is won and the peace established. Increasing efforts to maintain present production levels and to increase them in some instances are necessary. The working people will be asked to continue to support the war effort by lending every possible support to the expenditure of every dollar of the war economy. Increasing efforts will be made to substitute the items necessary for the war effort, and to maintain present production levels and to increase them in some instances are necessary. The working people will be asked to continue to support the war effort by lending every possible support to the expenditure of every dollar of the war economy."

"I ask you to continue help in all aspects of the war and effort. I ask you to support the war effort by lending every possible support to the expenditure of every dollar of the war economy.

"With best wishes for your successful convention, I am"

"Very sincerely yours,"

"(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

They Can Cook Too!

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 30.—During the recent convention of the Minneapolis State Federation of Labor at Saint Paul, Minnesota, chairman and guests partook of the convention banquet, which was prepared and served by members of Local 1968, together with the sisters of the Floyd B. Olson Memorial Temple Red Cross Unit, Workers' Aid, the United War Service Auxiliaries, and the United Garment Workers.

It was generally agreed that these sisters who so graciously and ably prepared and served the convention banquet performed an important part in making the annual convention a success which it was.

Smokes for Yanks

Washington, D.C.—More than a million union label cigarettes are being successfully marketed by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to aid the U.S. War Department's call for a nation-wide radio audience. Liunen added that thousands of messages of appreciation are being received for the cigarettes, which are all union label brands.

The Labor Department has given this approval to the cigarettes, which are now being produced by the Labor Department in the interest of the war effort. The Labor Department has given this approval to the cigarettes, which are now being produced by the Labor Department in the interest of the war effort.