

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official Organ of the International Council of Office Employees Unions of the A. F. of L.

Vol. 2, No. 7

WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPTEMBER, 1944

Quebec Electric Agreement Signed

Montreal, Quebec, Can., Sept. 14.—The recent consummation of an outstanding agreement between Local No. 23592 and the Quebec Hydro-Electric Commission was announced today by J. Harvey Durette, recording secretary of the union.

The agreement, which is retroactive to April 15 of this year, covers several hundred office and clerical workers employed by the commission in its offices and branches in Montreal and vicinity. Salaries negotiated as part of the agreement are outstanding for the area and it is reported that all workers covered by the contract will receive major benefits.

The work week consists of 39½ hours spread over 5½ days. All work in excess of the normal work week or in excess of 7¼ hours per day is paid for at time and one-half the regular hourly rate. Double time is provided for work performed on Sundays.

Holidays Outstanding Feature

In the light of comparison with regularly recognized holidays in the United States the new agree-

ment contains an outstanding feature in that 11 holidays are recognized. Designated holidays are: New Year's Day, Epiphany, Good Friday, Ascension Day, St. Jean Baptiste Day, Dominion Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, All Saints Day, Conception Day and Christmas. Double time is paid for work performed on any of these holidays. Two weeks vacation is provided for all workers having at least one year's service. Vacation time is agreed as falling between May 1 and October 1 of each year.

Local No. 23592 and two other AFL unions having members employed by the company have established a governing board through which all unsettled grievances are cleared before final action by arbitration is undertaken as provided by government provision. The union and the commission have agreed that the general principle of seniority shall prevail in all layoffs and promotions within the bargaining unit.

International Council President J. Howard Hicks commended the local for the "thorough and complete" manner in which all provisions of employment have been handled and incorporated into the final agreement.

Observers believe that the success attained in the negotiations of the agreement with the Quebec Hydro-Electric Commission by Local No. 23592 signals the beginning of a greatly expanded and aggressive movement among office and clerical workers in this area of the dominion.

\$80,000 RETROACTIVE ADJUSTMENTS WON

Jacksonville, Fla., Sept. 26.—Retroactive wage adjustments affecting more than 550 members of Local No. 23133 were today negotiated with representatives of the St. Johns Shipbuilding Co. of this city. Secretary - Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings and Vice President Lorraine S. Rhodes of our International Council together with AFL Organizer Al Kent, E. T. Parker, president, and Roy Bolling, secretary-treasurer, of the local union participated in the negotiations, with A. H. Ainslow, treasurer, and C. A. O'Conner, assistant treasurer, of the St. Johns company.

The retroactive adjustments as negotiated will result in 5-cent per hour increases for all hourly paid office workers who had completed 6 months' service with the company by July 1, 1944. All workers who had completed 18 months' or more service by that date are to receive 10 cents per hour upward adjustment.

All retroactive adjustments are to go back to March 20, 1944. It is anticipated that more than \$80,000 in retroactive payments will result from these negotiations, when approval of same is obtained from stabilization agencies.

In addition to the retroactive adjustments a plan was effectuated for the granting of quarterly wage adjustments during the current year in units of 5 cents per hour and in accordance with seniority principles.

San Francisco Wins Another Election

San Francisco, Calif., Sept. 20.—Pushing steadily forward in its campaign to unionize office and clerical workers employed in local ship repair and conversion plants, Local No. 21320 today was selected as bargaining agency by a unit of production clerical employees of the General Engineering Corp., according to an announcement made by Frank F. Randall, a Vice President of our International Council. The victory today was by a vote of more than 4-1 in favor of the union, thus clearly indicating the desires of the workers involved.

The success scored today in the National Labor Relations Board election at General Engineering Corp. rounds out the full picture of unionization in this particular phase of the shipbuilding industry in San Francisco proper. Negotiations have been under way for some time with companies where previous NLRB elections have established the right of the local to represent workers and strong efforts are being put forth to gain a uniform agreement covering all such operations through the shipbuilders' association.

LOUISVILLE LOCAL MAPS INTENSIVE DRIVE AT REYNOLDS METAL & B-W TOBACCO CO.

Louisville, Ky., Sept. 26.—Calling upon all available reserves, Local No. 22906 of this city is preparing to level its sights toward the unionization of office and clerical workers employed in the 10 local operations of the Reynolds Metal Co. as well as similar workers employed in the centrally located administrative offices.

Announcement of the campaign was made today by Kenneth C. Jasper, president of the union, who further stated that the local's business representative, Andrew W. Higdon, would be in charge of the undertaking. The announced plans of the union are in line with recommendations from executive officers of our International Council who counseled immediate and strenuous action in stable industries holding postwar development.

Actively working with Higdon and assisting at every opportunity will be local and international representatives of the Aluminum Workers International Council. The Louisville local of the Aluminum Workers has excellent agreements with the Reynolds Metal Co. insofar as production workers are concerned, and the outstanding progress which this union has recorded is expected to be reflected in the accomplishments yet to be chalked up by Local No. 22906.

International Council officers have been praised by local officers for their unhesitating support and as-

sistance in this undertaking. The successful culmination of this campaign, coupled with presently established contractual relations in the aluminum industry throughout the country, is expected to open wide the opportunities for complete unionization of workers of our trade in the industry on a nationwide basis.

Campaign in Tobacco Industry Progressing

Previously announced intentions by Local No. 22906 to organize office and clerical workers employed by the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Co. are crystallizing rapidly (Continued on page 4)

INSURANCE BILL FIGHT CONTINUES

Local Unions Urged to Help

Washington, D. C., Sept. 20.—The Senate Committee on Judiciary by a 10 to 6 vote today favorably reported out of committee the so-called States Rights Insurance Bill H. R. 3270, which was passed by the House of Representatives on June 22. This is the bill, identical to Senate bill S. 1362, which would, in effect, proclaim that the operation of insurance businesses are not subject to the antitrust laws of the nation on the grounds that insurance does not constitute interstate commerce.

(Continued on page 3)

AFL Fight on Anti-Labor Proposals Enters Last Lap in 3 States

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor is rallying its forces for the final round in its last-ditch battle against vicious anti-union legislation which will be submitted to the voters of three states—California, Florida and Arkansas—on Nov. 7.

In each state proposed constitutional amendments are to be on the ballots which outlaw all "union shop" agreements and create chaos in labor relations in the very midst of the war.

Just about the hottest fight is raging in California. There, however, organized labor has rallied an amazing amount of public support against the vicious amendment, which is sponsored mainly by the "open shop" interests of southern California and the false-front "Associated Farmers."

A state-wide citizens' committee opposed to the amendment has been set up under the chairmanship of Professor Max Radin of the University of California. The Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Townsend movement have joined forces with labor to defeat the obnoxious proposal.

Many employers' groups, including the state chamber of commerce, have gone on record against the amendment, and in San Francisco, Alfred J. Lundberg, president of

the Key Transportation System and former president of the chamber, heads a committee of business men opposed to the amendment. Other committees of industrialists are also active on labor's side in the fight. Leaders of church groups—Protestant, Catholic and Jewish—have likewise enlisted in the battle.

In both Florida and Arkansas, much non-labor support has also been mobilized in the struggle, leaders of the state federations of labor disclosed. President Leo H. Hill of the Florida Federation said many top-ranking employers' of union labor are going on the air and warning voters that the amendment would disrupt labor relations and imperil the state's industrial expansion.

Meanwhile, the AFL has appealed to affiliates all over the nation to contribute to a fund to help defeat the legislation in the 3 states. Wealthy anti-labor interests in each state have already raised big "war chests" to put over the restrictive laws.

Also, the AFL announced it would give legal and financial help to local unions in cities where attempts are made to freeze out union organizers and business agents through imposition of prohibitive license fees.

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Official organ of the
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF
OFFICE EMPLOYEES UNIONS



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all of the material herein contained is not
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The Coming Election

Think for yourself, get the facts
and act accordingly.

This principle has always been
the heart of trade unionism. No-
where does it apply with more force
than in the nonpartisan political
action which the American Federa-
tion of Labor practiced for 38
years.

This policy is aimed at getting
the right men into political offices
and is expressed in these simple
words: Elect your friends, defeat
your enemies. This does not mean
alliance with any political party,
but exactly the opposite. It means:
regardless of party, elect the men
who will give labor the greatest
service.

How can you judge so as to carry
out this principle in the coming
election? Get the facts about the
candidate.

Your union or the Central Labor
Union to which you are affiliated
should write to your state federa-
tion or to AFL headquarters in
Washington for the labor records
of all candidates for Senator and
Representative whose names will
appear on ballots and between
whom you must decide.

The AFL selects legislative pro-
posals fundamentally important to
labor and makes them test issues
indicating the attitude of members
of Congress to labor. The votes of
the candidates on these test issues
are compiled and made available to
unions on request.

In the light of this information
and the campaign statements of
candidates, every union voter can
determine wisely which candidate
can best be depended on to deal
fairly with matters of primary con-
cern to him.

Think for yourself. Don't let
anyone dictate your vote.

Political party platforms are like
auto running boards—just some-
thing to get in by.

In Memory of Them

I'm buying a bond for a freckled kid
Who lived down the street a way—
A boy with a dog just a while ago—
A name on a list today!
I'm buying a bond for a barefoot lad
Who only a short time back
Was romping the fields of the old home town
But died in a far attack!
I'm coming across in the memory
Of youngsters who left the town
With laughter and jokes and their heads held high
To take on the scrappers' frown;
The kids who were down in the swimmin' hole
Or played in the high school show—
The boys who'd be on the sandlots now . . .
Except that it can't be so
I'm signing for all I can take aboard
I thought I had done my share
Until in the home town sheet today
I saw "Johnny Adams" there;
He'd brought me my papers every night,
A child on a bike bright red;
He's riding the path to the house right now,
I thought . . . but the lad is dead!
A duty? A noble and handsome act,
This taking of War Bonds? Bunk!
Since when was investment on sure things
A sacrifice? Scrap such junk! . . .
I'm doing a painless and little thing;
One sales point alone rings true!
My debt to those lads from the old home town—
Who, asked for their lives, CAME THROUGH!
—The Boilermakers Journal.



Educational Notes

LOOKING AHEAD

All of us watch the headlines
each day, wondering how soon V-E
Day will come. Early this fall mili-
tary observers expected victory in
Europe by the end of October or
early November, but with the stif-
fened Nazi resistance on the Ger-
man border, the date has been set
ahead. End of the war by Decem-
ber 1 is still a possibility, they say,
for Allied strength against the
Nazis is now as 5 to 2. V-E Day
may come at any time from then
till early 1945. And when it comes,
what then?

Cuts in war production will be
immediate and heavy, amounting
to 30 or 40 percent in few months.
Unemployment in the country as a
whole will probably reach at least
four million and possibly even eight
to eleven million. Office workers
in airplane plants and munitions
plants will be affected, but gener-
ally not in shipyards, for they
will continue in production close to
their present schedule.

With the efforts of the War Pro-
duction Board to dovetail war work
with civilian production, it is gen-
erally expected that within three
months after V-E Day reconversion
will be well under way and workers
will be getting back into civilian
jobs. By summer of 1945 civilian
goods will begin to flow back into
the retail markets in quantity, and
unemployment should be substan-
tially reduced, provided the war in
Europe ends in 1944 or early 1945.

In War Labor Board hearings on
the Little Steel formula on Sep-
tember 26, however, AFL board
members George Meany and Mat-
thew Woll pointed out that much

will depend on the ability of work-
ers to buy the products of industry.
And this means office workers as
well as production workers. If
wages stay frozen at 15 percent
above January 1941, and prices stay
near their present high level (as is
expected), office and production
workers will be hard hit when over-
time ends, but we will not be the
only ones to suffer. Industry's
market will be cut away—and that
will affect everyone. Full employ-
ment will not be possible if indus-
try cannot sell its products.

And what of the near future?
What about the job for everyone
we've been hearing about after the
end of World War II? Mr. Meany
gave some important points. They
showed that industry depends on
its home market, and there won't
be jobs for all of us unless industry
can sell enough here at home to
employ us all. Where is that mar-
ket coming from? Most of it comes
out of the pay envelopes of wage
and small salaried workers. For
the men on railroads, the girls at
typewriters, the men and women in
factories, stores, offices—millions
of them all together buy three-
quarters of all the goods and serv-
ices produced by industries and
farms for sale to consumers.

At today's wage and salary rates,
workers' buying power is short by
\$9,000,000,000 to \$11,000,000,000 of
the amount needed to keep our in-
dustries producing at a full-emp-
loyment level, as shown by the
government figures quoted by fed-
eration representatives. That
means each of us needs about \$250
more per year in his or her pay
envelope before our combined buy-
ing power will be enough to create
jobs for all.

To raise \$250 for each of us is a
task for the unions, especially for
office workers' unions, for our pay
is desperately low.

Industry will be able to pay us
wage increases, for productivity
will rise rapidly after the war, as
new machinery and techniques are

EXPANDED CONSUMPTION FULL EMPLOYMENT KEY

Washington, D. C.—Harry L.
Hopkins, special adviser to Presi-
dent Roosevelt, outlined a program
for full postwar employment call-
ing for legislation to increase mini-
mum wages to 60 cents an hour.

Writing in the current issue of
"American Magazine" he said that
private enterprise could provide
maximum employment—with gov-
ernment spending playing a purely
supplemental role—if total con-
sumption is expanded and if busi-
ness investment and expenditure
are stimulated.

Enlarged federal expenditures
will be necessary to meet increased
debt charges for national defense
and to pay veterans benefits, Mr.
Hopkins said, but vast public works
alone cannot abolish unemploy-
ment.

"It must be done by the establish-
ment of new businesses," he wrote.
"Industry must be given every in-
centive to expand, the masses must
be given a greater buying power
and static wealth set into motion
like fire, generating new power
and new wealth."

He said that the nation's eco-
nomic future lay more in expanding
consumption and raising the stand-
ard of living of the people than in
any other direction.

ANTI-LABOR LAWS FOUGHT

Canton, Ohio, Sept. 21.—Respond-
ing to the call for assistance in
combating the antiunion forces now
attempting to legislate unions out
of existence in both California and
Florida, the members of Local No.
23107 as their regular monthly
meeting last night voted to assess
themselves \$1 each to be sent in
to the American Federation of La-
bor to be used in fighting these
antilabor measures.

The members of the union were
quick to recognize the fact that the
success of these measures in either
state would be the opening of
drives for similar suppressive laws
in other states which would not
take long to destroy free labor
unionism in this country.

Vice-President George P. Firth
of the International Council, and
Organizer Ted Dethloff of the
American Federation of Labor were
both in attendance at the meeting,
each speaking briefly. Vice-Presi-
dent Firth brought to the local
some of the highlights of the recent
convention of the International
Council and also emphasized the
importance of proper education for
new members as they are taken
into the local.

Organizer Dethloff's remarks
were directed more toward the gen-
eral organizing work that should
be carried on by the local, urging
the members to continually be on
the alert for opportunities to
spread their organization into other
industries.

introduced. Government experts
expect an increase of 30 percent in
production per worker in factories
within 3 or 4 years after final vic-
tory. Wage and salary increases
of \$5 a week (\$250 per year) will
be not only possible but necessary
after the war. Perhaps not all in
one year for everybody, but in 2
or 3 years.

FENTON REPORTS VISIT TO FRANCE

GI JOES PRAISE PRODUCTION RECORDS; WANT SECURITY AND JOBS UPON RETURN HOME

Washington, D. C.—The following are excerpts from two nationwide radio addresses made by Frank P. Fenton, director of organization of the American Federation of Labor following his return to the United States early in September. Fenton visited active battle areas in France, together with two other AFL leaders, at the request of the War Department and highlights of his report to the home front are as follows:

"I saw what it takes to make a battle. I saw the complete, utter desolation that is left behind as the armies sweep over the countryside and through the cities and villages. I saw the death and destruction caused by a desperate, fear-crazed enemy who seeks to stave off total defeat by terrorizing the people of Great Britain with robot bombs.

"To make a battle it takes guns and ammunition, planes and bombs,



tanks—thousands of them — and supplies, mountains of supplies. It takes suffering and blood. It takes lives. I saw one military cemetery where 8,000 American boys are buried. In that cemetery I saw a grave, a grave as humbly marked as that of the G.I.s next to it. It was where Lieut. Gen. Lesley N. McNair is buried. My associates and I said a prayer at that grave. We knew we were on hallowed ground.

"Across the road from that cemetery service troops had set up an assembly line for assembling jeeps and trucks. There, in an open field, our men were doing as efficient a job of assembly as is done in our factories over here. They were doing that job under the most adverse conditions imaginable — and with their guns at arm's length. When the day's work is done they crawl into their pup tents for a few hours sleep—sleep that may be interrupted by orders to dismantle the assembly line, load it onto trucks and move to some other sector.

"I saw cities and villages where not a living thing exists; whole towns where hardly a stone rests on stone.

"... The Nazis themselves attribute their defeat to the overwhelming superiority of Allied equipment, most of which was made by American workers.

"What I saw in France and in England fills me with pride for our Army, from generals to privates.

"And our soldiers—the G. I. Joes—are doing a magnificent job with the equipment American labor has given them.

"We talked to hundreds of officers and enlisted men. What they want most is to wipe out the Axis

military forces and get home as quickly as possible. We encountered none of the hostility that some people think exists among the troops towards organized labor. Many, who are not union members told us they believe a strong labor movement is one of the bulwarks of the democracy they are fighting to defend. Through all ranks of the Army they are enthusiastic about our production record. Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton, commanding general of the Third Army, asked us to tell the workers back home that he and the men of his command are proud of them.

"Our troops are confident that we on the home front will not let anything divert us from the task of keeping them supplied.

"We must put every ounce of our energy into the production of these critical items. We cannot allow our hopes for an early end of the war curtail our efforts. With maximum cooperation between management and labor we can and we will finish the job."

"It is natural that our attention always focuses on the accomplishments of our fighting men in the various branches. We cannot give the G. I. Joes too much credit for what they have done, and are doing. Our American soldiers, in whatever branch of service we have found them, were men we can all be tremendously proud of. They do not flinch; they face dangers without a word of complaint. They have given the Nazis a new conception of Americans and American courage and military skill. Yes, our American G.I.s make one very proud—very proud to be an American.

Nurses Praised

"Another branch that we can be justly proud of is our courageous Army nurses. We visited a front-line hospital only 48 hours old and watched these tireless women at work close to the battle front. We watched them quietly and efficiently.

(Continued on page 4)

Labor Takes Lead

(From Illinois State Federation of Labor Weekly News Letter)

The erection of a hospital for the Wood River, Ill., area is called for in the postwar plans of the Wood River, Ill., area is called for in the postwar plans of the Wood River Central Labor Union, according to an announcement made by Lucy K. Bartlett, the secretary of the central body. The union stressed the need for better hospital facilities in the locality and urged that the project be undertaken without waiting for the actual ending of the war. This evoked favorable editorials from the local press. The union's suggestions are now being considered by the city council.

This is one of the many instances in which central bodies of organized labor have taken the lead in promoting public ventures needed for the welfare of the community.

Insurance Bill Fight Continues

(Continued from page 1)

Despite the contention of Judiciary Chairman Senator McCarran in his majority report to the effect that the bill will not deprive labor of its rights, the fact still remains that the wording of the bill has not been changed and would, in the opinion of many persons, including Associate General Counsel H. S. Thatcher of the AFL, jeopardize the benefits presently enjoyed by insurance workers under the Wage and Hour Law, the National Labor Relations Act, and other beneficial federal labor legislation which is dependent upon the presence of interstate commerce for its application.

In a strongly worded minority report Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, who was joined by Senators Hatch, Kilgore, Murdock, Wheeler and Langer, points out "the enactment of this bill is not needed to preserve state regulations. It is needed, however, for certain coercive, restrictive and monopolistic acts in the conduct of insurance which are to be exempt from the antitrust law."

The American Federation of Labor, through its legislative representative Lewis G. Hines and its associate general counsel, Herbert S. Thatcher, clearly went on record as being opposed to this bill principally because of the threat which it presents in jeopardizing the rights of insurance workers to the protections to which they are entitled under the National Labor Relations Act and the Wage and Hour Law.

Both our International Council of Office Employees Unions and the Industrial and Ordinary Insurance Agents Council have vigorously opposed these bills both in the House and before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

It is anticipated that the Senate may vote on House-approved bill H. R. 3270 shortly after Congress reconvenes on November 14.

All local unions and all individual members are urged by International Council headquarters to write letters and telegrams to the Senators from their states urging that they oppose such bill and vote against its passage when it comes to vote in the Senate.

Ford Motor Complies With NLRB Order; Union Member Reinstated

Jacksonville, Fla., Sept. 23.—Complying with a National Labor Relations Board order of August 31, the Ford Motor Co. today reinstated Joseph B. Coles to his former position in its Jacksonville branch office, according to information received from Lorraine S. Rhodes, Vice President of our International Council.

Brother Coles had been discriminated against and discharged from his position in the Jacksonville branch office of the Ford Motor Co. because of his membership and activities on behalf of Jacksonville Local 23133. The local union and our International Council preferred charges against the company with the NLRB and that board on Aug. 31 ordered the company to cease and desist discriminating against the membership of Local Union

Retail Agreement Gains Noted

Tacoma, Wash., Sept. 22.—Substantial improvements have been gained for members of Local No. 20360 employed in offices of local retail stores, according to George R. Stracey acting secretary of the union. Opening of the local's agreement and a subsequent series of meetings with representatives of the employers association resulted in a reduction of the apprenticeship period by approximately one third, wage increases in different classifications ranging from 7 to 11 cents per hour and time and one-half for evening work.

Following recommendations previously made by officers of our International Council representatives of the union are increasing efforts toward the unionization of presently unorganized office and clerical workers employed in stable post-war industries. Prospects are bright for expansion in this direction and results to date would indicate that the local can anticipate better than average gains as the movement grows.

PAPER CO. ELECTION WON

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Sept. 8.—The office and clerical workers employed by the Consolidated Water Power & Paper Co. of this city have just voted by a substantial margin in favor of representation by Office Employees Union 23627, according to Council Vice President Alice Holz.

The election, which was conducted on September 6, under the auspices of the Wisconsin Employment Relations Board, embraced all main and plant office employees totaling close to 100 workers. The preliminary steps in connection with the drafting of the collective bargaining contract are about to commence, according to Harry Klapps, president of the local, and any of the main and plant office employees who have not as yet joined the local are being urged to do so without further delay.

23133 and to immediately reinstate Joseph B. Coles to his former position and to reimburse him for all loss of pay which he suffered by reason of the company's discrimination.

Assistant Manager C. R. Holland of the Jacksonville branch of the company today offered Brother Coles "immediate and full reinstatement" to his position in the office of the Jacksonville branch without prejudice to his seniority or other rights and privileges. Bro. Coles immediately accepted this reinstatement offer and is to return to work as of October 2, and then immediately receive his two weeks' 1944 paid vacation.

The amount of the reinstatement for his salary loss is presently being computed by the NLRB and will shortly be paid to him by the company.

Portland Notes Further Progress; Retail Grocery Agreement Opened

Portland, Oreg., Sept. 15.—Announcement that the long-standing agreement between Local No. 16821 and the local retail grocers' association has been opened for negotiation of increased wages and an expanded vacation provision was made today by Irving Enna, secretary-treasurer of the union.

Approximately 250 members of the union are employed in this industry, which, in the past 7 years has undergone a marked change in all phases of employment vital to its office and clerical workers as a direct result of collective bargaining.

New Members Gained

Within recent weeks representatives of the local have unionized office and clerical workers employed by the E. J. Bartell Co., ship insulators, and the Oregon Barracks, Inc. New members from both concerns are enthusiastic over the establishment of collective bargaining rights with their respective employers and are working closely with officers of the union toward wage adjustments and improved working conditions.

Acceleration of the drive by Lo-

WAGE RAISES DEMANDED

San Francisco, Calif., Sept. 11.—George Solomon and L. L. Tucker, representing Local No. 23576 at nearby Napa today appeared in a public hearing before Disputes Director Wallace Miller of the Shipbuilding Commission of NWLB to demand wage increases for office and clerical workers employed in the shipbuilding division of the Basalt Rock Co.

The union has endeavored for the greater part of the past year to negotiate an agreement with the company which would provide for area rates of pay and working conditions for such workers. Solomon, in presenting his statement to Miller, charged that the company did not desire to enter into an agreement with the union because it had refused to pay wages presently existing in nearby Richmond. He further charged the company with acting as its own stabilization board, lowering wages at will, without consulting the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor.

Tucker, business representative of the union, pointed out that the company was misrepresenting wages being paid in its reports to the Wage and Hour Division and referred to specific instances, one of which showed the company reporting a present wage of 95 cents per hour for one job classification whereas the rate being paid was 65 cents.

In response to arguments put forward by company representatives that an increase in wages would work a hardship on other industries in Napa, Thomas Rotell, representative of the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council said, "This firm tries to give the impression that it has been the savior to labor in that area with high wages. Actually, the firm has kept wages down for all workers in their own plant as well as in other factories in the section."

cal No. 16821 to unionize local bank employees was announced by Enna who has indicated that a more complete announcement regarding this undertaking will be made shortly.

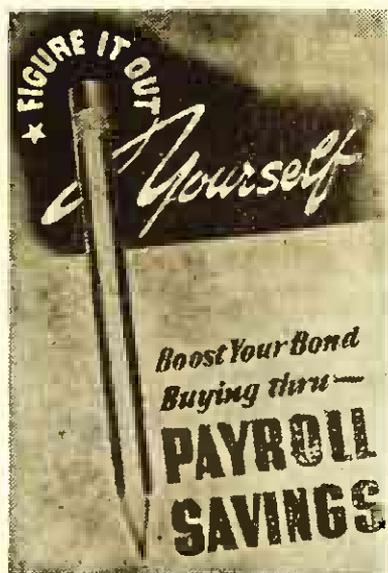
Approval of Agreement Expected

Approval of the expanded agreement between Local No. 16821 and Commercial Iron Works, Inc., shipbuilding division, is expected soon. An additional 600 office and clerical workers employed by this company are expected to receive wage adjustments and improved working conditions in line with those presently enjoyed by production clerical employees of the same concern. Local officers report that this new agreement is presently before the Shipbuilding Commission of the National War Labor Board in Washington where International Council President J. Howard Hicks is pushing for speedy and complete approval.

NLRB ELECTION ORDERED

Washington, D. C., Sept. 30.—The National Labor Relations Board today ordered that an election be held within 30 days among the office and clerical employees of the U. S. Automatic Corp. at its plant at Amherst, Ohio. The office employees will vote as to whether or not they desire to be represented for collective bargaining purposes by Office Employees Union 23714 of the AFL. The balloting which will be under the supervision of the regional director of the NLRB's eighth regional office at Cleveland, Ohio, will be held not later than 30 days from today.

The U. S. Automatic Corp. manufactures screw machinery products. In support of its request for certification as the bargaining agency for the office force of this plant, Local 23714 submitted to the NLRB proof that that it represents an overwhelming majority of the office staff. It is anticipated, therefore, that in the scheduled election office workers will cast an overwhelming majority of votes for representation through the union and thus establish its certified bargaining rights in this plant.



WATT'S FEDERATIONIST ARTICLE REPRODUCED

Washington, D. C., Sept. 30.—Arrangements have been made to reproduce in leaflet form the article entitled "Labor and Politics" by Robert J. Watt, which appeared in the September issue of the American Federationist. This timely article by International Representative Watt also appeared in the feature section of the Washington Sunday Star earlier this month. A supply of copies of this leaflet have been ordered and will be distributed among the various affiliated local unions.

Fenton Reports on Visit

(Continued from page 3)

ly saving lives, alleviating pain and suffering, giving blood plasma, assisting in delicate operations to both Germans and our boys with less than 1 percent loss of life. They are truly Florence Nightingales, which makes us feel that too little has been told about the great contributions of these American girls. They are magnificent. They ask for nothing. They give everything. They show courage under fire to match that of the bravest man. They are modest and self-effacing. They seek no praise, no publicity. It seems to me, after seeing our Army nurses on the job in our hospitals in France, that it is simple justice to recognize that these young women are doing a marvelous job.

Unionists Sparked French Underground

"We were especially interested in hearing that the very backbone of the underground, all through the four dark years of occupation, was the old French organized labor movement. They were saboteurs during this period—Now, thank God, they are no longer saboteurs, but soldiers of Free France. There were many in this underground movement from all walks of French life, but the bulk of the people who daily risked their lives that France might live again were workers and members of the trade unions which were wiped out when Hitler moved into the country in 1940. But Hitler never wiped out the love of freedom in the hearts of the French trade unionists. So, today a democratic government is being restored again in France led by these unconquered patriots. When democracy is fully restored in France, it will as everywhere rest on the foundation of the rebuilt trade unions. The free trade union movement everywhere is the bulwark of liberty.

"There is just one more point I'd like to make. While we were in France we talked with many high officers. But we also talked with a lot of plain G. I. Joes. There was one thing that we found them all in agreement on—first, they want to get the war won so they can come home; second, they want assurance that there will be jobs for them when they do get home, instead of a depression. These men are preoccupied with the task immediately before them, but at the same time they are intensely interested in what is going on at home,

"They are well-informed. They know about the efforts of organized labor to develop a program that will provide for full employment after the war. They also know that

Screen Actors Nominate

Hollywood.—Screen star George Murphy, who dances, sings and acts, will be president of the Screen Actors Guild (AFL) in place of screen star Jimmy Cagney, who can dance and sing too when the script calls for it.

This was assured here when Murphy was nominated unopposed to succeed Pres. Cagney. Other unopposed nominations unanimously voted into office by the SAG Class A membership include:

Paul Hervey, first vice president; Walter Abel, second vice president; Lucille Gleason, recording secretary; Russell Hicks, treasurer. For directors: Lena Horne and Gene Kelly for 1-year terms and Dorothy Tree for 2-year term.

Louisville Local Maps Drive

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into reality, officers of the union have reported. Satisfactory progress has been made and the gathering momentum of this move is anticipated to see the undertaking concluded in the near future. The Axton-Fisher Tobacco Co. offices are also receiving the attention of representatives of the union and it is expected that further progress in this plant will be reported shortly.

Working closely with representatives of Local No. 22906 in their endeavors in the tobacco industry are officers and members of the Tobacco Workers Union in this city, as well as Edward H. Weyler, secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky State Federation of Labor.

Incentive Pay Asked

In a brief recently filed with the National War Labor Board in behalf of members employed in the local naval ordnance division of the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co., the union requested the application of incentive pay provisions identical with those presently being applied to production and some nonproduction employees of the company.

The brief filed by the local stated that refusal by the national board to allow incentive payments to office workers would be an "obvious case of discrimination." The union further contended "that clerical workers directly influence the amount of incentive pay earned by standard pay groups" because of "their increased efforts and knowledge of their work," which has "a very direct and vital bearing upon the ability of productive groups to meet and exceed standard time values."

program hasn't yet been accepted. They are wondering if government and industry realize just how vital this matter of jobs for all is to them. I can tell you after talking with these boys that we at home had better stop talking about post-war plans and get busy with ways of actually providing jobs if we aren't going to let these boys down.

"They speak straight from the shoulder. Our soldiers want jobs when this war is over, and it's up to all of us here at home—industry, labor and government—to do something about solving this problem. The time has come for action. There must be a job for everyone looking for work. We owe it to our boys. So let's get going now. Let us build an economy that they will be proud of so that the great sacrifices our soldiers have made will not be in vain."