

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official Organ of the Office Employees International Union of the A. F. of L.

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7

SECURE AGREEMENT WITH STEEL FIRM

Detroit, Mich.—Announcement of the negotiation of an agreement by Local 42 with the Midland Steel Products Co. in this city was made by President Verna Corrigan of the local union and AFL Organizer J. N. Cummings to Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks of the International Union.

The agreement, which covers all office and clerical workers of the company in its local operation, provides job classification and the proper slotting of workers in such classifications, the results of which have proven most satisfactory and beneficial to the workers involved. The agreement likewise provides automatic progression in wage rates for each classification for the first two years of service. Wage increases were secured by the local union which, coupled with the job classifications, assure its members substantially increased take-home pay and a proper relationship for the various types of work performed.

Looking forward to the prospects of a general nation-wide increase in workers' earnings, the agreement as concluded carries a provision which will permit negotiations to be opened on the wage and salary structure upon 30 days' notice. Improved vacation periods were also obtained.

Both President Corrigan and Organizer Cummings reported that Local 42 has a most cordial relationship with the company which, it is anticipated, can be developed in other areas where the company has operations.

Get Retroactive Pay

Members of Local 42 employed by the Murchey Machine and Tool Company recently received checks covering retroactive adjustments in pay from April 1. The adjustments were made on the basis of a recent Regional War Labor Board ruling and the retroactive checks ranged upwards to \$150.

The agreement with this firm is presently open for renewal and it is reported that Local 42 has requested further wage adjustments, with prospects bright for further increases in the earnings of its members employed by the company.

Wage Adjustment

On the basis of a recent Regional War Labor Board ruling, members of the union employed by the Hy-Grade Food Products Corporation, will receive retroactive wage payments from December 11, 1944. Al-

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OEIU Triumphs in WLB Case On Brown & Sharpe Issues

Providence, R. I.—A smashing victory over Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Company was won by OEIU Local 76 when the Regional War Labor Board ruled December 7 on contract clauses submitted to it by stipulation between the Union and Management last October.

The board ordered included in any agreement consummated by the parties maintenance of union membership, check-off of dues, arbitration as a final step in the grievance procedure, and two weeks paid vacations after one year's service. The sick leave provision was denied.

It was the first time in War Labor Board history that maintenance of membership was ordered while a work stoppage was in progress and it is also significant that the public members of the board joined with labor members in upholding the union on all these four issues with the three industry members joining on arbitration and two of them on the two weeks paid vacation.

Wouldn't Face Board

International President Paul R. Hutchings presented the union's case to the board in Boston on December 4. The company would not face the board, presenting its argument in writing.

Detailed facts and statistics backing up the union's request for the five clauses in the contract were submitted by Hutchings.

Letters from management attempting to dissuade employees from union membership, threatening notices posted just before the start of the strike for equitable adjustment of wages, management's efforts to get employees to sign away their rights to any backpay which might accrue to them under the contract, clearly showed the bitterly anti-union attitude of the company which, it was pointed out, has persisted for some time.

Terms Ordered

Following are the terms and conditions ordered included in the contract:

Maintenance of Membership—The Union is awarded the standard maintenance of membership provision as adopted by the National War Labor Board on November 27, 1943.

Check-off—The Company shall deduct monthly from earned wages and remit to the local union for the duration of the agreement, dues of those employees to whom this agreement applies who are members of the Union and who individually authorize such a deduction in writing.

Arbitration—Any complaint, dispute or grievance not settled in the second step within two working days (unless a reasonable extension is mutually agreed upon) may be referred by either party to arbitration.

In the event the parties are unable to agree upon a mutually satisfactory arbiter within five days after such notice, either party may request that the National War Labor Board or such successor or other agency as that board may designate, designate an arbiter, transmitting a copy of such request to the

STRIKE ENDS

As this issue of The Office Worker was about to go to press, word was received that Brown & Sharpe office workers voted to terminate their strike under a proposal made to both sides by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and to which the company has also agreed.

Negotiations are to proceed, with the Department of Labor making a survey of living cost increases, adequate living standards for office workers and other matters necessary to a proper understanding of the problems faced by the workers. Upon the completion of this survey, the union, the company, and the State Director of Labor will meet and agree upon rates to be established.

All adjustments affecting wages and compensation shall be retroactive to June 17, 1945.

The working conditions in effect October 25, 1945, are to remain in effect until the agreement is completed.

The big Brown & Sharpe plant was tied up for more than seven weeks by the strike, which was voted after the company refused to agree to satisfactory wage rates or to arbitrate on the wage matter.

other party. The decision of the arbiter shall be final and binding on both parties. The cost of each arbitration proceedings is to be equally divided between the Company and the Union.

Jurisdiction of the arbitrator shall be limited to the grievances
(Continued on page 3)

DEPARTMENT STORE AGREEMENT SIGNED

Pittsburgh, Pa.—The recent signing of a renewed agreement between Local 33 of this city and Gimbel Brothers, Kaufman and Joseph Horne Company department stores has been announced by Business Representative John Magnotti of the local union.

In making the announcement of the conclusion of this agreement, Magnotti stated that wage increases averaging 10 per cent for all members of the union employed by the three companies had been achieved. In addition, the new agreement eliminates "peak weeks" during which, under prior agreements, members of the union worked on a limited overtime basis without overtime pay. The renewed agreement also provides for the payment of dinner money to those members of the union required to remain on their jobs for overtime or evening work.

Because of protracted negotiations, members of the union employed by these companies worked the past year under a former agreement. In the final settlement, however, Magnotti has announced that all members of the union are receiving retroactive pay averaging upwards to 7 per cent in addition to wage payments which were made during the past year.

Magnotti paid particular tribute to Howard Donaldson, business representative, Warehousemen's Union 636 and Nicholas Lazzeri, business representative, Hotel and Restaurant Union No. 237 for the assistance rendered by them in bringing about a successful settlement

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Secure \$45,000 Backpay In Pact With Struthers-Wells

Titusville, Pa. — Struthers-Wells Corporation distributed on November 26 back-pay checks amounting to over \$45,000 to its office and technical employees, who are represented by Local 85 of the Office Employees International Union and Local 52 of the Technical Engineers, under the terms of a joint contract with both unions.

This covered wage adjustments dating back to September 1, 1943, in accordance with W.L.B. directives secured after months of effort on the part of both international unions and granted on the basis of evidence presented at a hearing before a panel of the Third Regional Board by President Paul R. Hutchings of the OEIU and Vice President J. L. Raimist of the IFTEADU.

Recent negotiations were carried on by a committee representing both locals—Lucille G. Smythe and Robert B. Graham for Local 85 and D. F. Rehner and C. D. Vanderhoff for Local 52. George P. Firth, vice president of the OEIU, assisted them.

Other features of the new contract provide for a five-day, 40-hour week, time and one-half for overtime, double time for Sundays and six specified holidays, paid vacations, six days sick leave after six months' service, seniority rights and effective grievance procedure. Also arbitration is provided in case of disputes arising out of the interpretation or application of the terms of the agreement, which runs for a period of one year.

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Official organ of the
OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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J. HOWARD HICKS, *Sec.-Treas.*

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War-Time Savings

It is clear that there is no great mass purchasing power ready to be released as a result of workers war-time savings. Based on government figures, the facts are that the 140 billions of "individual" savings accumulated during the war is in the hands of those in the high salaried groups and not in the hands of the average workers who would quickly spend it for consumer goods. The figures reveal that:

1. About 93 per cent of all wage earner families in the country are in the group whose incomes are under \$5,000 a year.

2. In August this year, three-fifths of this group of families (those with incomes of less than \$5,000) had no money in the bank; a fourth of them had no war bonds.

3. About three-fourths of all the savings held by this group are in the upper third of the group.

4. The average net savings of these under \$5,000 a year families were only \$610.00 or less than three months' wages of the average wage earner.

5. Three-fifths of all wage earner families as a group saved almost nothing during the war. For those earning less than \$3,000 a year the average family savings were only \$17.00 in 1944.

The purchasing power that we must have to successfully weather the economic storms of the days ahead, can only be built on expanded current earnings of the workers. Increased wages, as are being demanded, is the only solution to the purchasing power requirements of our economy and savings, as such, can add little more than a temporary supplement to higher wages and salaries.

Sky's the Limit On Retail Profits

Washington, D. C.—Over 1,324 per cent! That's the staggering increase in profits rolled up by department and specialty stores during 1944, compared with their average earnings from 1936 to 1939,

Dispute Machinery Found Faulty

Washington, D. C.—Joseph A. Padway, chief counsel of the AFL, presented the following discussion as a feature of the twenty-third edition of the AFL radio program:

President Truman's new proposals for the settlement of labor disputes by fact-finding boards functioning during compulsory cooling-off periods are now before Congress. The American Federation of Labor does not agree with the President's plan but it believes he is completely sincere and well-meaning in proposing it.

Nevertheless, the plan embodies some obvious faults and some even more dangerous implications.

To begin with, a similar suggestion was considered and rejected only a week ago by the Labor-Management Conference because the delegates felt it would not work.

After all, the best way is to get together and settle their own problems through genuine collective bargaining and, if necessary, voluntary arbitration. The moment compulsion or outside intervention is introduced, collective bargaining flies out the window. We believe the President's plan does not offer sufficient encouragement to genuine collective bargaining and voluntary arbitration. In our opinion, there is not a single dispute existing in American industrial life today which could not be settled promptly by the sincere application of these methods.

The right to strike is definitely impaired by the President's bill. Although the compulsory cooling-off period is supposed to last only 30 days, it constitutes just as serious a limitation of American liberties as would a 30-day suspension of the right of free speech or a free press.

Of course, the bill expressly upholds the right of any individual worker to quit his job at any time he sees fit. But if two or more workers decide to quit in violation of the terms of the proposed plan, that would be unlawful. It would subject such workers to charges of conspiracy and would revive court injunctions against union activities. We thought this abuse was buried for all time when the Norris-LaGuardia Act was passed many years ago, but now it is rising from the grave to haunt and harass organized labor again.

Another danger is that the President's proposal may open the door to even more drastic legislation. Anti-labor groups in Congress already are sharpening their tomahawks.

The American Federation of Labor believes there is plenty of room for improvement of relations between labor and industry but it will never approve methods which will result in the scalping of the rights and interests of American workers.

OPA Administrator Bowles revealed.

Bowles made public the figure during a Senate Small Business Committee hearing on price control. Aghast, Senator Allen J. Ellender (Dem., La.), exclaimed:

"If that's true, then OPA has failed in its job."

Bowles' answer was that "we regulate prices, not profits."

UNION LABEL

Washington, D. C.—The Executive Board of the International Office Employees International Union has adopted a union label in accordance with action taken at the Cincinnati convention. It is very similar in design to the union seal and label button.

In rubber stamp form, the label is available to local unions through the Baumgarten Co., 925 11th St., N. W., Washington, D. C. The first order must be for not less than 15 at a price of \$7.50. The price is 25 cents apiece for successive orders which are not subject to the minimum of 15.

The 1946 edition of the Union Label Trades Department of the AFL will carry reproductions of the two OEIU emblems as well as the new label.

Davis Says Right To Strike "Sacred"

New York City.—One of the nation's veterans in the field of labor relations—William H. Davis, former chairman of the National War Labor Board—sounded an urgent warning against legislation designed to suppress strikes.

Addressing the Society for the Advancement of Management, Davis declared that "the right to strike is an inalienable right that cannot be removed by law."

"It is as fundamental as the first 10 amendments to the Constitution," he said. "It can only be diminished by agreement, as you substitute reason and persuasion for force."

CALL ISSUED FOR 1946 CONVENTION

Washington, D. C.—The call for the 1946 annual convention of the Office Employees International Union was issued from headquarters December 17. The convention will open March 18 in the ballroom of Hotel Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

Problems confronting our International Union, its membership and workers of our trade throughout the United States and Canada in this trying period of postwar readjustment will be given serious thought and deliberation at the convention.

With faith in our ability through the processes of collective bargaining to secure improvements in our economic welfare, it will be the purpose of this convention to give serious consideration to the problems of collective bargaining, the resolving of which will achieve maximum gains for thousands of members of our International Union.

It shall also be the purpose of this convention to give serious consideration to methods and procedures which will enable our International Union and local unions to bring the benefits of collective bargaining to the yet unorganized workers of our trade.

AFL COUNCIL HITS AT ANTI-UNION BILLS

Washington, D. C.—At an emergency meeting in the nation's capital, the AFL Executive Council blasted anti-labor and anti-strike bills pending before Congress and mobilized the entire resources of the American Federation of Labor to defeat them.

Summoned here by AFL President William Green because of the threatening legislative situation, the Executive Council made the following measures its chief targets:

1. The Norton Bill, making strikes illegal when certified to the President by the Secretary of Labor for consideration by fact-finding boards.

2. The Connally-Smith Act amendments, which would penalize unions for strikes by depriving them of their collective bargaining privileges for a year and making them liable to damage suits.

3. The Hobbs Bill, which would cripple efforts of the Teamsters Union to establish conditions for the protection of its membership in large cities.

The Executive Council directed Mr. Green to lead an all-out labor drive against these bills. It also called upon all affiliated organizations and all members of the AFL to let their representatives in Congress know immediately that labor will consider a favorable vote on these measures a hostile act.

Mr. Green will open a sweeping campaign to defeat the Norton bill with a powerful statement to be presented at a public hearing of the House Labor Committee.

This will be followed up by personal interviews by legislative representatives of AFL unions with members of Congress and by a slashing attack on the pending measures over the AFL's nationwide radio programs.

Hearing on the Norton Bill in the House opened with a two-way labor-management onslaught on the legislation which was recommended, in the first place, by President Truman.

John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers Union, was the first witness. He declared unequivocally that he will fight to the limit against the proposal because it deprives labor of its basic liberties.

For management, Eric Johnston, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, was the first to be heard by the House Labor Committee.

He expressed opposition to the bill because it would injure free enterprise by impairing the right to strike and because the proposed fact-finding boards would be given authority to subpoena an employer's books and records.

Mr. Johnston urged Congress not to act in haste on legislation which would so deeply and seriously affect the nation's economic life.

OFFICE WORKERS OF SAFEWAY SIGN UP

Denver, Colo.—The office and clerical workers employed by the Safeway Food Stores in this city are rapidly turning to organization, according to reports received from International Vice President Frank Randall who is assisting Local 5 in its organizational campaign at this establishment.

Cooperating with Brother Randall in this campaign are the officers of Local 5 and the officers of the organizations of the other trades presently holding bargaining rights with this company. Eileen Major, vice president of the local and chairman of its organizing committee, is working closely with Vice President Randall and exerting worthwhile efforts to bring this drive to a rapid and satisfactory conclusion.

Early in the drive Brother Randall found it necessary to meet with the Director of Labor Relations for the company and to have him correct any misunderstanding which might exist by posting notices in the company's offices indicating that the company would not in any way interfere with the exercise by its office force of its right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing. Brother Rudy Cook, secretary of the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly, has also been actively assisting in bringing this drive to a rapid conclusion.

OEIU Chosen By Webster Workers

Tiffin, Ohio.—The Office Employees International Union secured a substantial majority of votes which were cast in a consent election held under the auspices of the N.L.R.B. September 20 for the employes of Webster Manufacturing, Inc., Tiffin, Ohio, and the group has been chartered as OEIU Local No. 155. It is expected that this local will increase its membership rapidly within the next year, as there are a number of other plants in Tiffin ripe for organization.

A negotiating committee has been elected and has prepared a contract which will be submitted to the company in the near future.

The organization campaign was handled by Vice President R. M. Daugherty and Fred Whiteman, A. F. of L. Organizer of Toledo.

CAMPAIGN PROGRESSES

Philadelphia, Pa.—Local 14 reports the organizing drive among office employes of the Whitman Candy plant is making headway. The committee is continuing to circularize and contact the workers in order to obtain collective bargaining and other benefits of unionization.

Negotiations have started on a new agreement for the employes of Piers, Inc.

Retroactive Overtime Pay Secured at Ordnance Plant

Kansas City—Retroactive overtime pay estimated as amounting to more than \$55,000 has been secured by Local 40 for upward to 135 office and clerical workers of the contractors operating Sunflower Ordnance Works. In addition, the working contract negotiated in behalf of these workers last spring has been approved by the necessary government agencies.

In the negotiations Local 40 had the able assistance of AFL Organizer R. E. James and received the aid of the International Union in securing War Department approval of the pact.

Under the retroactive pact, the time and a half rate after eight hours a day or 40 hours a week dates from April 17, 1943, to February 1, 1945.

The working agreement contains overtime pay clauses and back-pay under these clauses dates from February 1. The amount of all back overtime pay is presently being computed.

In addition to wage schedules

GAS CO. WORKERS VOTE FOR UNION

Portland, Ore.—Clerical employes of the Portland Gas & Coke Company voted by a substantial majority for Local 11 as their collective bargaining agent in an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

These workers have been represented by a company association.

The campaign to secure for them effective representation was conducted by Organizer Ruth Flood, Business Agent Clyde Clement and Secretary Irving Enna of Local 11, with the cooperation of the Chemical Workers Union, which represents the production workers.

Drive Under Way In Dept. Stores

Oakland, Calif.—A joint organizing campaign among the 2,500 office and clerical workers and clerks in six department stores is being carried on by OEIU Local 29 and the Department and Special Store Employees Union 1265.

Leaflets bearing a vital message to the workers have been distributed and one mass meeting has been held to further their interest in the benefits of unionization.

STORE AGREEMENT

(Continued from page 1)

between Local 33 and the three companies.

The local union is currently engaged in the renewal of an agreement with the McCann Grocery Company as the result of which it is anticipated members of the local employed by the company will receive wage increases.

and the overtime provision, highlights of the contract are maintenance of membership; two days leave with pay each month of service, which may be taken during the course of employment or at the completion of employment; six holidays with pay; arbitration as the final step in grievance procedure.

OEIU TRIUMPHS

(Continued from page 1)

arising out of the application or interpretation of this agreement.

In the event that either party raises a question as to the arbitrability of a grievance under this section, the arbitrator shall first determine the arbitrability of the grievance before proceeding to the merits of the grievance.

Sick Leave—The Union's request for sick leave is denied.

Vacations—The present vacation plan shall be amended by giving two weeks vacation after one year's service based on average straight time hourly earnings times the number of hours in the regularly scheduled work week. In all other respects the existing vacation plan remains the same.

TWO MORE GROUPS UNDER OEIU BANNER

New York, N. Y.—Office and clerical employes of the National Coat and Suit Industry Recovery Board and Wells Fargo Armored Truck are now under the banner of the OEIU.

The Recovery Board workers chose Local 153 as their bargaining agent in an election conducted by the state Labor Relations Board. Negotiations for an agreement have been launched.

The local was unanimously chosen by the Wells Fargo workers, who are the first in the local armored trucking field to be organized by the OEIU.

Substantial gains are anticipated from the working agreement which is in progress of negotiation.

Local 153 is continuing its efforts to secure an early election to determine the collective bargaining agent for the 900 workers in the 25 branches of the Public National Bank and Trust Company.

WAGE BOOST

Oakland, Cal.—An upward revision in the wage schedule of an agreement between Local 29 and Durkee Famous Foods has been secured, according to Business Representative Raymond Colliver and Secretary-Treasurer Pauline Wilde, who signed the revised wage schedule on behalf of the union.

The revised wage schedule provides increases ranging from \$10 to \$20 per month for the various classifications.

RENEW AGREEMENT WITH SHOE FIRM

Los Angeles, Cal.—Local 30 has recently negotiated a renewal of its agreement with the Brasley Cole Shoe Co., Ltd., covering the office and clerical workers employed in the company's operations in this city.

The agreement provides for an 8-hour day, 40-hour week, Monday through Friday, and also provides that all daily and weekly overtime shall be paid for at the rate of time and one-half, and all Saturday, Sunday and holiday work shall be paid for at the rate of double time. Two weeks paid vacation each year are provided for all employes of one year or more service. Employes with service of more than six months but less than one year receive a one week paid vacation.

The agreement provides for a full union shop and the union has preferential rights in the furnishing of all necessary new workers. All employes covered by the agreement who have been in the employ of the company for three months or more are guaranteed not less than three days paid sick leave each year.

The weekly salary schedules provide for automatic upward adjustments on all classifications at periodic intervals of three and six months during the first two years of employment.

Secure Agreement With Truck Line

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Local 33 reports the completion of a working agreement for the office and clerical employes of the Pennsylvania Truck Lines with retroactive wage increases, union shop and other benefits.

The back pay amounted to \$80 apiece and has already been received according to Business Representative John Magnotti who handled the negotiations for the local union.

FILE PETITION

Birmingham, Ala.—Local 18 has filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board for certification as exclusive bargaining agent for clerical workers of the Betchtel-McCone Corporation, a majority of whom have signed up with the union.

MAJORITY SIGN UP

Denver, Colo.—A substantial majority of the office employes of General Iron Works has signed applications for membership in Local 5, according to Frank Randall, vice president and an organizer of the Office Employees International Union.

SPEED NEGOTIATIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco, Calif.—Substantial increases in wages and improvements in working conditions have been obtained for members of Local 36 employed in the wholesale drug industry, a wholesale dry goods firm, the brewery industry and an oil company, according to Eleanor D. Murphy, secretary-treasurer of the local union.

Members of the union employed in the wholesale drug industry received wage increases amounting to from \$15 to \$25 monthly, retroactive to September 1, 1945. These wage increases were accepted enthusiastically by members of the union employed in the industry and who are staunch union supporters because of past gains which have been won for them through their union.

At Butler Brothers wholesale dry goods firm, wage increases ranging from \$10 to \$20 monthly, retroactive to August 18, 1945, were won as the result of negotiations. As the result of the renewal of this agreement a minimum salary of \$115 per month has been established. The agreement which provides for a work week of 40 hours during the 5 days, Monday through Friday, also provides for eight holidays and vacations ranging up to three weeks.

Brewery Increase

All local breweries employing members of the union granted a 20 per cent wage increase to all workers earning up to \$150 monthly and a flat \$30 per month increase earning beyond such figure as the result of negotiations and the renewal of the agreement of several years standing between the union and the industry.

The agreement between the union and Mohawk Petroleum Company provides uniform wage increases for members of the union in the event production workers receive a wage increase and which will be in addition to the 15 per cent increase won as the result of recent negotiations. A 40-hour work week with overtime compensation for work performed on Saturdays, Sundays and eight holidays is incorporated in the agreement as is a provision for annual vacations of two weeks, the application of strict seniority and the assurance of union membership for all office and clerical workers employed by the company.

Back Pay Won

Secretary-Treasurer Murphy of the local union has also announced the gaining of \$46,000 of retroactive wages for members of the union employed by the General Engineering and Dry Dock Company. This success is the culmination of a bitter battle waged between the union, the company and the National War Labor Board with the assistance of International Union officers.

Recent successes of the local union have stimulated the desire for unionization among many yet unorganized office and clerical workers locally, according to Secretary-Treasurer Murphy and Edwin J. McCall, business representative of the union, who are mapping plans to meet the demands for such action.

Three Toledo Locals Join to Form Powerful Unit

Toledo, Ohio.—Last month the three locals chartered by the OEIU in Toledo amalgamated so as to form one unified local in that city, combining the strength of all existing organized groups.

The amalgamation of these locals grew out of conferences held by International Vice-President R. M.



R. M. Daugherty,
Vice President

Daugherty with the Executive Boards of the three locals in an attempt to bring them closer together to work on their mutual problems and to promote the organization of the many yet unorganized workers of our trade in the Toledo area.

After several joint meetings of

the Executive Boards of Locals 19, 55 and 65 with Vice President Daugherty, it was decided to have the Boards work out a proposed method of amalgamating the three existing locals. The proposed amalgamation agreement which was developed by the joint Boards working with Vice-President Daugherty was, after numerous meetings, adopted and approved by each of the existing local unions. The amalgamation agreement is a comprehensive one embracing among other things methods of meeting the problems of unified dues rates and initiation fees, existing obligations and assets of the individual locals the functioning of the different units, and the selection of new officers upon the completion of the amalgamation.

International Approves

On Thursday evening, November 8, the first meeting of this new local was held. The meeting was highlighted by an inspiring talk by International President Paul R. Hutchings. He informed the membership that this move had the endorsement of the International and would stand as a pattern for other locals to follow. Other speakers of note who addressed the members included William Sturm, A. F. of L. regional director; Otto Brach, general secretary of the Toledo Central Labor Union, and Walter Gunthrup, editor of the Toledo Union Leader.

The following temporary officers have been elected to complete the amalgamation and serve until such a time as permanent officers can be elected; President, R. M. Daugherty, Toledo Edison Unit; First Vice President, Gardner Horn, Electric Autolite Unit; Second Vice President, Roy T. Young, Toledo Edison Unit; Secretary-Treasurer, Bernard H. Ward, Toledo Edison Unit; Recording Secretary, Bette Johlin, Union Office Unit; Sergeant-at-Arms, John Shea, Retail Stores Unit; Trustees, Joseph Thiel, Retail Stores Unit, Carl Mellerk, Toledo Edison Unit, and Zera Holtfreter, Electric Autolite Unit.

The complete unification of the organization of our trade in Toledo, as accomplished through the amalgamation of the three local unions, represents a vital forward step in the further development of the organization of office workers in the Toledo area.

The first office employees union in Toledo was chartered about twelve years ago and was known as Stenographers, Typists, Bookkeepers and Assistants Federal Labor Union No. 19708, which name was later changed to Office Workers Union No. 19708. The organization was started by the office employees of the Toledo Edison Company. This group encountered many difficulties during the early years of its existence. It claims to be the first group of organized office employees to successfully apply economic sanction against a large company.

Other groups of office employees readily saw the advantage of organization and proceeded to join with this group until it was an important factor in the Toledo labor movement. In 1940 a situation arose which resulted in the Edison group securing a separate charter limited to Edison employees only and was known as Office Employees Fed-

SHIPBUILDERS SEEK WAGE ADJUSTMENTS

Colorado Springs, Colo.—The National Shipbuilding Conference, composed of representatives of labor, industry and government, in its first national meeting since the cessation of hostilities is endeavoring to work out satisfactory post-war wage adjustments to apply to the four national shipbuilding and ship repair zones, according to officers of the International Union who are in attendance.

The conference called by Mr. E. A. McMillan, chairman of the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee was called for the specific purpose of conducting the 1945 wage review and to consider other items agreed to be placed on its agenda.

Representatives of the three parties have indicated that office and clerical workers will be included in any general wage adjustments together with all other trades so as to provide the maximum possible stabilization in future employment by the industries.

Representatives of the International Union and local unions in attendance at the meeting include the following International Union vice presidents: J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., C. C. Newell, Mildred Erickson and Frank Randall while J. A. Lewis is attending in behalf of Local 133, Orange, Texas; C. H. Atteberry, Local 23, Tacoma, Washington; and Irvin — — — — — Local 11, Portland, Oregon; John P. Frey, president, Metal Trades Department, American Federation of Labor, H. Gerish Smith and E. A. McMillan are the principal representatives respectively of labor, industry and government in the deliberations of the committee.

eral Labor Union No. 22976, and later chartered by OEIU as Local No. 65.

The group remaining in No. 19708 was later chartered by OEIU as Local No. 19 and included the office employees of retail stores, Standard Oil Company, Gulf Oil Company, union offices and other groups.

The office employees at the Electric Autolite Company had been chartered by the A. F. of L. as Federal Labor Union 22554 and upon the establishment of the OEIU this group was chartered as Local No. 55 of the International Union. During the past three years this local has had a steady and healthy growth.

The fusion of all of these groups into one local, now known as Local 19, with the combining of all of the financial strength, numerical strength, and leadership, should result in an immediate further growth and development in the organization of office workers in the Toledo area. The amalgamation of these locals was with the full sanction of the International Union which views this coordination of organized workers in Toledo as an important milestone in the further development of the organization of our trade in that area.

Secure Agreement With Steel Firm

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though computations on the back pay to be received as a result of this ruling have not as yet been completed, it is known that such payments will exceed \$150 for all members of the union during the retroactive period.

Renew Hardware Agreement

The adjustment of job classifications and the negotiation of wage increases resulting in as much as \$4.00 per week increase have been concluded in the renewal of an agreement between Local 42 and the C. A. Strelinger Hardware Co.

This agreement provides that the wage structure of the same can be opened upon 30 days' notice, which insures all members of the union employed by the company a reasonable level of earnings in the event of a decided upward trend in wages and salaries in this area.

President Corrigan also announced that the local union is preparing to enter negotiations with the renewal of its agreement with the McKesson and Robbins Drug Co., with which firm the union has had an agreement for a number of years. Increased wages and other improvements are anticipated as being in store for the members of the union employed by this company. The expressions of local union officers in this regard are based upon a recent agreement between the union and the company on a comprehensive job evaluation method.

In an endeavor to assist in supplying recreational facilities for nearby Army and Navy hospitals, Local 42 is scheduling a dance to be held in the ballroom of the local Labor Temple in the near future.