COTTON EXCHANGE GAINS WON

One-Day Strike Ties Up World's Trading Center

New York City—UEF Local 205 of the Office Employees International Union won a smashing victory over the hardboiled management of the New York Cotton Exchange with a dramatic strike on March 4.

The picket lines, to which the Seafarers International Union and the Lewis Hightings of the Pacific made a tremendous contribution, closed the world's greatest cotton trading center for the first time in its history and completely tied up its 23-story headquarters.

Highlights of Gains

Here are the highlights of the gains secured:

- Wage increases of from $6 to $25 a week for more than 100 workers.
- Union security, without an escape period, and a check-off of union dues.
- Bonuses geared to the transactions on the Exchange, which can result in payments as much as $16,000 a year.
- A third week of vacation after 15 years of service.
- An all-union insurance plan.

A disastrous vote on Saturday for a strike was due to the previous week's existing wage rates. A system of automatic increases within the rate ranges has been adopted.

A union shop, check off of dues, a work week of 35 hours and overtime to be paid after 7 hours per day and 35 hours per week, vacations to start after 4 months of service with two weeks after one year's service and three weeks for every two years' service, a 10-year service promotion guarantee, grievance machinery and arbitration, and a system of sick leave guaranteeing the first 15 days with full pay in addition to a sick leave slightly geared to the same rate. A 10-year sick leave is being added.

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NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ASSAILED BY GREEN

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green charged before the House Labor Committee that sponsors of anti-labor bills have taken a "defeatist" and "negative" position in attempting to penalize unions throughout the Nation because of scattered disputes.

Empathetically denying that labor leaders have shown any reluctance to cooperate with law makers in the discussions or preparation of legislation affecting workers, Mr. Green declared:

"Opposition to legislation that is ill-considered, that will produce incalculable harm to our national economy and welfare, is the affirmative duty of every constructive citizen and group. The truth is that the sponsors of this anti-labor legislation, in their defeatist and negative attitude, proceed on the pretense that the organized American worker is callously indifferent to his obligations. But we have faith in the American worker and it is fully justified by his record."

Proposals Condemned

Legislative proposals offered in the House to ban the closed shop, secondary boycotts, the union dues check-off plan, impose cooling-off periods, require registration and financial accounting by unions, forbid minority strikes, outlaw jurisdictional disputes, emasculate the Wagner Act, and require compulsory arbitration were vigorously condemned by Mr. Green.

Mr. Green emphatically challenged "the validity on which such legislation has been presented to the country," and declared that such measures "are claimed to be a remedy against strikes—they are not."

Such legislation, he told the committee, is directed, not against strikes, but against the process of collective bargaining.

"Does this legislation deal with the causes of industrial unrest that months of unemployment and often have difficulty in finding suitable employment. Teachers often work for several years before their total earnings equal the amount spent on their education.

"Many teachers are unable in an entire lifetime to save the amount they have spent on a college education. Thousands of teachers are able to remain in the profession only through a generous payment by their parents or other relatives and pay a little for actual living costs.

"Ultimately the Nation will pay a heavy price for the failure to pay living wages to its teachers. It is high time for the several states to re vamp their antiquated school laws so that action may be taken to provide adequate financial support for the public schools."
CREDIT INCREASES, SAVINGS DECREASES

Washington, D. C.—Workers and other consumers are making up their income deficit by drawing on their savings and buying on credit, it was reported in a Monthly Survey of the American Federation of Labor, which declared that consumer credit had increased 40 percent in the last year while savings have dropped 41 percent.

"These are the first signs of danger," the survey said. "To support production by consumer borrowing and by spending savings is to build our industrial structure on a hollow foundation which will collapse. An enduring foundation can only be built on a solid basis, and that means employment which employ 40 percent of all farm workers. That is why workers have had to borrow to draw on their savings. That is why workers' income must be restored."

Discussing the question of whether home and employers can be partners, the survey said: "American industries and consumers cannot live without the labor of cooperation. A reliable investors' service anticipates 'excellent earnings statements' for the first quarter of 1947, and expects profits for the full year of 1947 'to exceed the record net results of 1946.' Full year results depend on the course of industrial developments."

Key Question

The "key" question, seen in the report, "centers about the willingness of employers, through peaceable negotiation, to adjust wage increases which today's favorable situation makes possible. Or will employers make it necessary for workers to strike in order to obtain fair wage gains."

"Workers' total income declined by $8,500,000,000 while the income of other groups rose by a total of $8,000,000,000," in the period between 1945 and 1946, the report revealed.

"This cut in workers' income is serious for two reasons it added, "it means a decline in workers' living standards, especially when it comes at a time of price increases, and the market for industry's products will be cut unless workers' income is increased. The Nation's 40,000,000 farm workers, it was noted, buy a great deal larger share of industry's consumer goods product than do, 1,000,000 farmers and business men."

Seafarers Seek Wage Increase

New York City—Increased wages to meet the rising costs of living are being sought by the East Coast

Women Increasingly Important In Picture of U. S. Wage Earners

Washington, D. C.—Women have been brought into important roles in the wage-earning world, declared the Labor Department, in an annual Women's Bureau for the fiscal year ending June 30.

Describing women workers as "a force to be reckoned with" government officials pointed to the fact that the Nation's dependence on women is "serious, beyond our ability to ignore in its over-all planning," the Bureau said.

Women workers are to be reckoned with, because their income is needed of millions of women to support themselves or supplement the family income."

Citing evidence of the Nation's dependence on women, the Bureau said that during the war women formed a third of all workers, and that the 16,000,000 in the labor market today represented close to one-fourth of all employed people. Prior to the war, women accounted for about a fourth of the total labor force.

Certain industries and occupations, it was said, are almost entirely dependent on women workers. For instance, in 1946, women formed 75 percent of the Nation's teachers, 95 percent of the nursing force, 50 percent of the workers who waited on the public in restaurants and hotels, more than nine-tenths of the workers in the home and household employees. They also accounted, in the same year, for two-thirds of the women who socialize in and shops and more than three-fourths of the operatives in the garment industry.

Concerning women's economic need for fair wage employment, the Bureau labeled as "an unwarranted assumption" the frequently made statement that with the end of the war women no longer need for remunerative employment. Pointing to its war-time survey of 13,000 women in 10 industries of the Division of the AFL Seafarers International Union.

"Women with which the union has contracts have notified the new requests after a special meeting of the SIU."

In announcing the move, a union spokesman pointed out that last year the SIU, aided by other AFL maritime unions, had brought American shipping to a "complete standstill" when the Wage Stabilization Board ruled against wage increases that the union had negotiated with shipowners.

"Receipt of new demands have been set by the union but a negotiating committee, headed by J. F. Shuler, another executive secretary in the union," the union said. "The union is attempting to "work out" a satisfactory wage scale with operator representatives."

"Women's wages were registered, noting that the gains won by the union last year had been "practically wiped out" by the rising cost of living. Paul Hall, port agent for the SIU, declared:

"We cannot allow ourselves to go back to work when that seemen had to endure so long."

"We expect the operators to bargain in good faith. If not, we can always rely on economic action at the point of production."
Woll Warns of Danger In Spread Of Slave Labor Plan Around World

Washington, D. C.—Expansion of the "slave labor system" is a "direct threat to the free workers of all countries," according to the International Labor Relations Commission of the American Federation of Labor.

This was the pronouncement issued here by Matthews F. Woll, vice president, who declared that "forced labor has become a postwar institution in many lands." In a recommendation, the Commission declared, "it has been estimated that nearly one-third of all organized labor is still being held as slave labor."

Prisoners Still Hold

Large numbers of war prisoners still are being held in Great Britain, Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, which are still being held as slave laborers."

"Under no guise is the return to chattel slavery and the Dark Ages permissible or desirable," said Mr. Woll, in the statement which was presented to the Commission with the approval of the executive council of the AFL.

"What a sad retrogression. Compulsory labor is what happened in the first war, when, within ten months after the end of hostilities, more than 500,000 prisoners of war were parceled out among the satellite nations. With such impudence has mankind been going backward that even now the Organization calling itself the World Federation of Trade Unions has proposed the imposition of forced labor on the Ruhr coal mines.

"Paradoxical as it may appear, it is the land which calls itself 'socialist' in its government which parades as a 'workers' republic,' that is the worst and biggest slave center on earth today. It is in Soviet Russia that the tidal wave of labor enslavement has swept westward. The Irkutsk Pravda only recently boasted that 5,000,000 prisoners of war are being used at penal labor in Siberia."

Soviet Slaves

"In the Kremlin domain there are millions of Soviet citizens doomed to spend the rest of their lives in the camps of forced labor because they are suspected or convicted of disapproving or disagreeing with the act or policy of the ruling group.

"But the Moscow dictatorship also has a slave labor force of millions of non-Russians. * * * hundreds of thousands of these slaves were rounded up by the Soviet police and sentenced to death or slave labor by the court-martial proceedings. It is estimated that 500,000 prisoners of war are being used at penal labor in Siberia."

SIGN CONTRACTS WITH 4 CONCERNS

(Continued from page 1)

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LIVING COSTS CLIMB

Washington, D. C.—A release from the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Labor Department, states that in August, 1959, the cost of living was 3.7% cheaper for the average family in the United States than on December 15, 1946.