OEIU Is Unanimous Choice Of Fraser Paper Co. Workers

Madawaska, Me.—N.I.R.B. elections held among the office and clerical employees of the Fraser Paper Co., Ltd., resulted in the establishment of exclusive bargaining rights for OEIU Local 29, according to OEIU Representative.

The elections held to two units and the plant clerical workers resulted in two instances in immediate increases for a number of the employees in amounts ranging up to $25 per month.

General Increases Obtained

The wage schedules in the master agreement and the job classification schedule of the same resulted in immediate increases for a number of the employees in amounts ranging up to $25 per month upward adjustments.

With the organization of the Georgetown mill office, the Southern Kraft Division has been held by the office employees in more than half of the company's various mill operations, including the Mobile, Alabama mill, the Mobile Mill Factory, the Panama City, Florida mill, the mill at Kedro, Miss., and the mill at Georgetown, S. C. The four additional mills of the company include Camden, Ariz., Spring Hill, Fla., and its two mills at Bastrop, La.

Adjustments In Wages Secured

Tiffin, Ohio.—Wages adjusted averaging about 10 percent feature the gains made in a new agreement recently negotiated between OEIU Local 103 and the Sterling Grinding Wheel Division of the Cleveland Quarries Company, according to International Union Vice President R. M. E. Bernhardt, who assisted the local union in its negotiations.

The local union by a landslide vote of 86 percent recently won an NLRB union election conducted among the office and clerical workers of this company.

Bargaining Rights at Tracey & Company

Portland, Oreg.—The office and clerical employees of Tracey & Company have recently selected OEIU Local 11 as their collective bargaining agent, according to local union Secretary-Treasurer T. M. Kincaid. The employees are now meeting with company officials to commence negotiations for a working agreement covering this group.

NEW BENEFITS WON IN CLEVELAND PLANTS

Cleveland.—Wage increases and a victorious union shop election marked the labor picture affecting office clerical workers in the Cleveland plants organized under the banner of the Office Employees International Union Local No. 17. At The Weideman Company a union shop election set up by the National Labor Relations Board was won by a large majority.

General wage increases were obtained for the office workers at the Oliver Corporation, Euclid, Ohio, amounting to 83.1 percent retroactive to May 31.

Fourteen dollars per month general wage increase was obtained for the office and clerical force of the American Store Company, retroactive to June 1.

At the Apex Electrical Manufacturing Co., Local 17 negotiated a general increase of $9 per month retroactive to April 1 and an additional $10 per month increase retroactive to May 1, applicable either toward a pension plan if approved by the company or as a further general wage increase.

The management of membership election has also been set up according to provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act. It is the latter of the two contracts the company and the Office Union.

The increases granted in the above plant offices were negotiated by Mrs. Paul A. Hanna, business representative of the local.

Wages Increased By Renewal Pact

Kalamazoo, Mich.—A wage increase averaging 13 cents per hour highlights the gains made in a new renewal agreement recently completed between OEIU Local 206 and the Kalamazoo Smelting & Refining Co., according to International Vice President R. M. Daugherty, who assisted the local union in its negotiations.

The wage adjustments won under the terms of the agreement are retroactive to March 5.

The wage rate schedule provides for automatic wage adjustments after 60 days employment and after an additional six months employment, with proviso for further increases thereafter as merited by the employee.

Beacon News Pact Boosts Wages 15%

Aurora, Ill.—An overall wage increase of 15 percent is expected to be enjoyed by office employees of OEIU Local 158 in the Aurora Beacon News, according to a recent mutual agreement reached by the Office Employees International Union Local No. 17, announced by the NLRB.

The office and clerical workers voted unanimously for the maintenance of membership clauses in the contract.
BOOK ON HATTERS UNION
PRAISES ITS PROGRESSIVISM

New York.—The United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union is the subject of a book recently published by the Dial Publishers, under the title, "Spotlight on a Union," and the author is Donald B. Robinson, a former New York newspaperman specializing in labor affairs.

"Spotlight on a Union" traces the history of the Hatters Union from its earliest days down through the tribulations of the famous Danbury Hatters case, the fight to eliminate Communists after World War I and down to the present. The story is told in an authoritative and highly interesting way.

Robinson makes his clear conviction that the Hatters Union is one of the most progressive labor organizations in the nation. He praises the union for having "brought to a head" the wages and industrial relations worthy of careful attention in this day of so many in the governmental primary. Watson entered the race for justice of the State Supreme Court. Forced into a run-off, he was decisively defeated.

Labor and other liberals in Iowa not only effected the trouncing of anti-labor Governor Blue, but they also accomplished the defeat of Representative John W. Guyne in the Third District. Gwynne voted for the Taft-Hartley Act and had a consistently bad record, which included a raw attempt to amend the Wage and Hour Law to make it easy for dishonest employers to cheat underpaid workers.

"The results in these three states are most heartening," Mr. Keenan said. "They prove that we can accomplish what we have set out to do. But it takes plenty of hard work. State and city branches of ILPE throughout the nation should be greatly encouraged by what has just taken place in these three states, which are not the most highly industrialized states by any means."

Washington.—The effectiveness of the educational activity of Labor's League for Political Education has been "amply demonstrated" in Iowa, North Carolina and Florida, where primary elections brought defeat, respectively, to an anti-labor governor, an anti-labor United States Senator and an anti-labor Attorney General.

"The results in Iowa, North Carolina and Florida show very clearly that laboring people are very much on their toes this year," said Joseph D. Keenan, director of ILPE.

We have been regaled with stories that labor's political education is not effective. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating. The votes of aroused, intelligent citizens among the working population of three states have now sounded the death knell for three anti-labor candidates.

"I trust that this demonstration of labor's determination and ability to carry out the principle of defeating labor's enemies will not be lost on those who have been so eager to belittle the effectiveness of political education among the American people."

In Iowa, the working people supported William Beardall for governor in the Republican primary, and the incumbent, Governor Robert Blum, was handed one of the worst trouncings ever sustained by any office-holder in that state. Blue was the most consistently opposed labor's interests.

In North Carolina, in the Democratic primary, the wage earners went after the scalp of Senator William B. Umstead, who had voted for the Taft-Hartley Act despite labor's pleas. Umstead was decisively defeated by former Governor J. B. Bicknell.

In Florida, in the Democratic primary for governor, Tom Watson too is in the running, and made sure that it became thoroughly known to all citizens. After taking a beating...
Profits of 297 Companies Jump 26% in First Quarter

New York—Net income of 297 independent manufacturing concerns for the first quarter of 1948 was 26 percent above the comparable period last year, according to a report conducted by the New York Times.

Since 1947 was a banner year during which business profits soared to record heights, it is apparent that industry this year is out for even higher profit goals at the expense of American consumers.

Meanwhile, the latest figures on the cost of living released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics show a continued rise. The consumers' price index for April was 8.4 percent higher than a year ago; 27 percent over June, 1946, and 71.7 percent above the level of August, 1929.

The Times reported net income of $562,382,376 for the 297 industrial firms on the basis of their official earnings statements. This compares with $449,051,780 earned in the first 3 months of 1947.

The report also indicated the continued high demand and higher prices as the principal factors for the increase in profits reported so that an example of this was seen in the petroleum industry where several large integrated refineries reported profits for the first 3 months of 1948.

The Times survey showed that the combined minimum wage concerns totaled $241,326,000, exceeding the March, 1947, quarter by 102 percent.

The report declared that the large foreign aid program and heavy expenditures for national defense would be sustaining factors for a period of "relatively good earnings in certain industries."

The March output of manufacturers goods amounted to 198 percent, compared with 197 percent for February and January, based on the Federal Reserve Board's yardstick of factory output for 1935-39 as 100. It was only 2 percent below peak postwar peak reached last October, and over 50 percent above the March rate, last year.

Manufacturers' sales also were higher during March, reaching an estimated $18,200,000,000 for a gain of $2,200,000,000 over February.

Shown above are Donald C. Canders and Mrs. Shirley Miller Haynes, temporary president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of newly chartered OEU Local 322 at Madawaska, Maine. They both voted for OEU in last November's NLRB election among the clerical forces of the Fraser Paper Company which resulted in a 109.7 percent vote for OEU representation.

AFL-UEU Organizer Ed. C. Nagel, who assisted OEU Local 322 in its recent election victory, is shown with a 250-lb. bear caught in the woods outside of Madawaska. Mr. Ed. is presently helping the locals with its first contract negotiations.

BARGAINING RIGHTS "WIN IN 2 ELECTIONS"

New York—Employees of the Joint Board of the Electrical Industry voted overwhelmingly for OEU Local No. 153 as their collective bargaining representative in an election conducted by the New York State Labor Relations Board. Negotiation of a contract is under way.

Pioneer Ice Cream company workers also chose Local 153 as bargaining representative in another election. Negotiations for a working agreement have commenced. At the Gordon Baking Company.

Win Wage Hike At Square D Company

Milwaukee, Wis.—A five cent wage increase with a minimum boost of $15 a month was secured for employees of the OEU Local 153 at the Square D Company when the negotiations were handled by George Smith, Jess Julien and Mr. Nagel.

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Pioneer Ice Cream company workers also chose Local 153 as bargaining representative in another election. Negotiations for a working agreement have commenced.

At the Gordon Baking Company.

MANY OFFICES HAVE WORK WEEK UNDER 40

Washington—One in five manufacturing companies have a work week of less than 40 hours, according to the findings of a study of representative companies that have under the agreement by American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, an employee organization.

When the standard work week is less than 40 hours, one of the following practices for overtime payment is observed by the companies surveyed: time and a half for all time in addition to the base week even when the base week is only 35 hours; pay at the regular rate up to 40 hours a week; no additional extra payment until more than 40 hours has been worked. Of course the law requires payment of time and a half for more than 40 hours.

Fenton Named Delegate To I L L C

Washington—President Truman named Frank D. Fenton, the AFL's chief delegate to the International Labor Confederation of Europe, to serve as United States workers' delegate to the International Labor Congress in Madrid.

The American Federation of Labor, by virtue of its being the most representative labor organization in the nation, represents United States workers at the international peace congresses.

The conference is composed of 2 delegates from the government of the 32 member states and one delegate representing management and labor of the member states. Its principal function is the formulation of international social standards in the form of international labor conventions and recommendations.

The matters with which the conventions deal cover a wide range. They include hours of work, the minimum age for employment, the working conditions of men and women, and all the consequences of employment, social insurance, minimum wage-fixing machinery, social standards, if they are applicable, holidays, wage by industry, industrial relations, etc.

SHISHKIN URGES INFLATION CURBS

Washington—Boris Shishkin, chief economist for the AFL, called for action by Congress to curb inflation and to balance our economy at full employment.

Shishkin spoke on the "American United" program of the National Broadcasting Company.

Participating in the round-table discussion program with Mr. Shishkin were Senator Joseph O'Mahoney, Representative Frank B. Keefe, and Dr. Emerson P. Schmidt, representative of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Shishkin supported a move to increase social workers' pay as a means of affording relief to one segment of the population which has been unable to keep abreast of rising costs. He said:

"We have to balance our county at the level of high production, and these efforts have to go on to provide upward adjustments where needed. That means that we have to have the necessary movement of inflation, that we have to have specific measures proposed by President Truman to prevent us from getting by price controls, if we are to keep from pricing ourselves out of the market."

Shishkin urged the Senate to enact the Fair Labor Standards Act, which would be the first step to help us to meet the problem of living.

"One thing we have to do is to reform the Social Security system, which is essential for the country's economy," Mr. Shishkin said.

Mr. Shishkin attacked the arguments of Representative Keefe and Dr. Schmidt who concentrated solely on the need to restrict money supply as the only effective restraint on inflation. To cut back money supply alone, he said, would mean an economic balance at a lower rate in production of goods which would be consumed only by those fortunate enough to have adequate purchasing power.

"The Senate emphasized figures released by the Federal Reserve Board showing that in 1947 more than one-fifth of all the consuming units in the United States are now finding it impossible to meet the cost of living from their current income.

AID FLOOD VICTIMS

Portland, Ore.—Members of OEU Local 11 and International Chemical Workers Union, Local 138, employed at the Portland Gas and Coke Company gave a total of $1,800 in voluntary contributions to assist the flood victims developed by the company who were victims of the flood in this area. Secretary-Treasurer Morgan of Local 11 and Business Representative James Fulkerson of the Chemical Workers Union were assigned to appeal to employees of the company for the contributions.

The funds collected were distributed to all areas of the country in need by a committee comprised of members of both locals. The company agreed to deduct contributions from salaries upon request so as to facilitate collections. Many of the contributions are being used to help the loss of their homes and all personal belongings.

HEAD NEW LOCAL

Treasurer M. W. Fox and somber, the first elected members of the new Local 1,137 are: Treasurer M. W. Fox, Secretary T. J. O'Malley, and Assistant Treasurer W. E. Conner.
HIGH COURT RULES ON PART OF T-H ACT

Washington.—The Supreme Court of the United States granted an amicus curiae brief to the Labor National Labor Relations Board, which was seeking to uphold the Taft-Hartley law. The Court agreed with the Board and ruled that the law was constitutional.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES

Contract Signed by Gas Specialty

Milwaukee, Wis.—A 7½ per cent wage increase and one of the most liberal vacation policies in the community highlight the gains won by the Local 370 of the United States Steel Corporation at the recent negotiations, according to the Gas Specialty Company, John Zinno, Bob Schmid, Art Zunker, June Bieto and Business Representative Harold Beck.

The contract recognizes Local 370 as the exclusive bargaining agent and provides for a check-off of union dues, a combined vacation and sick leave policy, a combination of vacation and office, seniority, six paid holidays, grievance procedure, 10 years sick leave, after one year and four years after another 10 years, and four weeks after another 10 years.

The contract also covers health and welfare benefits, including a $25 per week increase in the health benefit, a $25 per year increase in the welfare benefit, and a $25 per year increase in the hospitalization benefit.

NLRB Rules Out CIO Union 'Front'

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board, in a recent ruling, found that a CIO union was a 'front' for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The board ruled that the CIO union was not a legitimate labor organization, but rather a front for the NLRB.

Further Gains Won in New Agreement

Detroit, Mich.—A new agreement with the General Motors Corporation highlights the gains made in the new agreement. The agreement covers all clerical and office workers in the company, and establishes a new schedule for hourly employees.

HATTERS UNION

(Continued from Page 3)

Employers in the industry which the union has developed over the years have benefited both the workers and the employers, the benefits have been higher wages and better working conditions; for the employers, more production and higher profits.

Spotlight on a Union” also highlights the plight of the Hatters against prison labor, mercury poisoning and other evils with which the workers have been confronted in the past. In connection with the prison labor issue, Hatters have fought the newspapers of that period were almost without exception unsympathetic to the plight of the workers whose jobs were wiped out by the unfair competition of prison labor.

This new book is an excellent addition to the growing literature of trade unionism.

The board said that Local 128 had taken the initial step to raise a question of representation “by a letter requesting recognition.”

For that reason, the board said it would not explain the case of the local union as a “front” for Local 128.