

ACTION

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE CANAL ZONE
WORKERS UNION, WITH
NO POLITICAL CON-
NECTIONS.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR
ORGANIZE YOUR
NEIGHBOURS

VOL. 1 No. 1

PANAMA, JULY 4, 1946

5 Cents

10,000 Workers Plunge Into Battle

Union Received With Opened Hands By Zone Employee

The 4th of July is a date that will be well remembered by the employees on the Canal Zone, since this marks the initiation of a new and powerful union, something yet to be seen in the Republic of Panama.

After many years of suffering under the yoke of reactionary "bosses" in the various divisions and departments that govern the safe operation of the Panama Canal, that sector of employees designated as "Silver Employees" has finally decided to organize in a solid block and launch out toward the betterment of the workers in general. This fight is a long and hard one and will need the cooperation of every employee as well as that of all other progressive sectors in the Canal Zone as well as in the Republic of Panama.

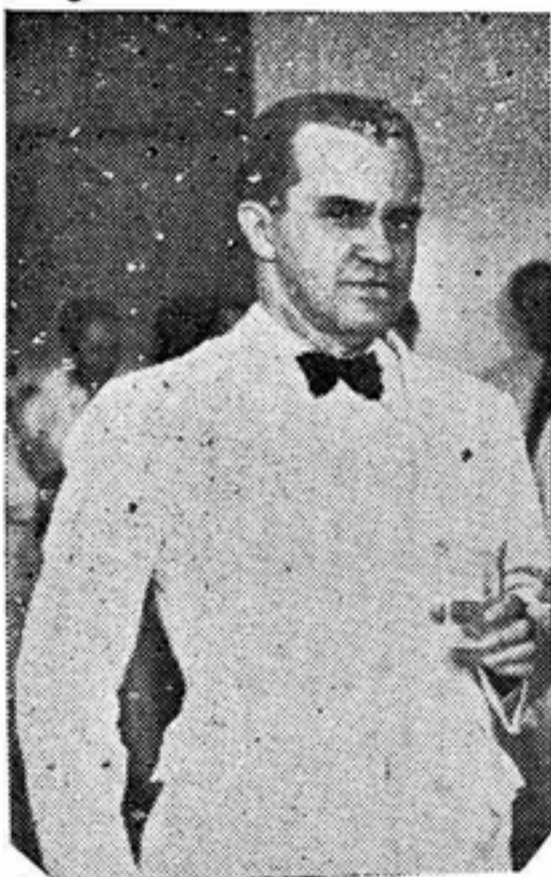
We cannot deny the fact although several attempts to organize labor were made in the past, they failed miserably. We must learn from the mistakes made in the past and avoid these pitfalls, outstanding of which was the inability of the various nationalities to cooperate. We are, all of us, Panamanians, West Indians, Salvadorians etc., suffering the same bad conditions and injustices on the same jobs—be it as laborers, food-handlers, clerks and so on all the way down the line. Hence the necessity for organizing all workers regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin for the common good.

The fact that this Union was able to inscribe 3000 members in the first six weeks of its existence and 7000 more in the next three, serves as proof of the necessity of such a Union. They have realized that this fight is not for one individual but for the working masses joined in one solid block. This is but the beginning of what's to come.

Coronels Woodruff and Barco of Corozal Remove "Gold" & "Silver" signs

The democratic manifestation of the good neighbor policy has finally been translated by the two gallant American Army Officers in removing the stigma of gold and silver signs throughout the two Army Posts under the Commands of Col. Woodruff and Col. Barco. We believe that this progressive act will be followed by other Commanding Officers in the near future, and we, the Canal Zone Workers Union take this opportunity to hail them. At long last the word "Silver" and its stigma of inferiority is gradually and surely being removed from the Canal Zone and its blot on American Democracy.

HIS EXCELENCY



Don ENRIQUE A. JIMENEZ
"Racial discrimination has no reasonable explication..."

TRANSLATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 2, 1946

The Canal Zone Workers Union, a workers' organization evidently based on understanding, solidarity and mutual aid, has my full support in its stubborn determination to uphold the rights of its members within the norms of justice and good understanding.

In its task, which is both just and in order, this organization may also expect the whole-hearted cooperation of my Government in bringing about the disappearance of racial discrimination that has no possible justification or reasonable explanation in a true democracy.

Enrique A. Jimenez.

Inauguration to be Held in the Panama Gymnasium

The inauguration of the C. Z.W.U. will take place at the National Gymnasium on July 4th, at 9:30 A.M.

The guest of honor at this meeting will be His Excellency President Jimenez, heading an impressive list of guest speakers. All these important personages, have manifested a great interest in this labor movement which has as one of its prime objectives, the abolition of the gold and silver rolls.

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METAL TRADES COUNSEL DECLARES WAR ON UNITED PUBLIC WORKER OF AMERICA

In the June 7th, 1946 issue of "Government Standard" official news paper of the A.F. of L. no less than 14 columns of vile slander has been hurled at the newly formed United Public Workers of America.

Although the A. F. of L. has had no part in the recent fight for the 18½ cents hourly raise, they accept with no gratitude this increase in their weekly pay checks. Instead they hurl epithets in honey covered poison coated attacks. We all know the C. I. O. is a fighting Union without discrimination as to race, color, creed or national origin (see constitution). We also know the A. F. of L. is a decadent, dying organization filled with hate, prejudice and highly discriminatory tactics. To prove this they ally themselves with the most reactionary groups in America—such as the Hearst Press and Scripps — Howard Chain, both of which are anti Negro. anti labor monopolies. In the issue of June 7th. the "Govt. Standard" reprints no less than 3 editorials from this vicious group and 14 columns of red baiting. One of the writers for Hearst, Walter Win-

chell, was sued for slander and lying attacks against the C.I.O. and had to pay ten thousand dollars to the C. I. O. in a decision handed down by the Supreme Court of United States. The "Govt. Standard" never mentioned that. The "Govt. Standard" never mentioned a recent incident in Atlantic City either. In pure jealousy, the A. F. of L. decided to "organize the South" The C. I. O. has been engaged in this murderous task for many years and now that the battle is beginning to bear fruit, the A. F. of L. suddenly finds itself concerned with the Southern Negro and is also beginning to organize the South. A convention was called in Atlantic City but when twenty five Negro delegates entered the auditorium, the ushers herded them all into a corner of the auditorium in typical Jim Crow fashion. No, the "Govt. Standard" says nothing about this but confuses their membership with red-baiting the United Public Workers of America. In this they directly follow the reactionary lines of Hearst and Scripps Howard newspapers.

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Panama, July 2, 1946.

Editor-in-Chief, Action
Dear Brother:

Being the first president of the Canal Zone Workers Union, I take great pleasure in commending you, the first editor of "Action," for the splendid and tedious task you are performing in the interest of the underprivileged workers of the Canal Zone.

We wasted our youth working as individual but are now united as a single man for the purpose of demanding our rights as honest and hardworking men.

I hereby beg that God help us in maintaining our Union and that our newspaper be like a flag of victory in the eyes of the world. Because of its privileged position, Panama is the mirror and the heart of the world.

Fraternally yours,

Francisco Arauz
President, C. Z. W. U.

What We Represent

Highlights of Our Constitution

ARTICLE III.—OBJECTS

1) To bring about the effective organization of the working men and women of the Canal Zone regardless of RACE, CREED, COLOR, or NATIONAL ORIGIN, and to unite them for common action into a labor union for their mutual aid and protection.

2) To extend the benefits of collective bargaining and to secure for the workers means to establish peaceful relations with their employers (The United States Government) by forming a labor union capable of dealing with modern aggregates of the U.S. Government in the interest of the Workers of the Canal Zone.

3) To maintain determined adherence to obligations and responsibilities under collective bargaining and wage agreements.

4) To secure legislation safeguarding the economic security and social welfare of the Workers of the Canal Zone, to protect and extend our democratic institutions and civil rights and liberties and thus to perpetuate and realize the cherished traditions of democracy.

Atlantic Labor Union Mergers with Pacific

In a gesture of solidarity and a united labor front, a Committee of the Executive Board of the Atlantic labor Union, headed by President Rojas, arrived Monday, June 26, 1946 and in a two hour meeting with President Arauz & a representative of the C. I. O. the decided to join forces with the Canal Zone Workers Union (Pacific side). Due to the fact that the C. I. O. Charter is in the name of the C. Z. W. U. it was decided to use a common name and adopt the Constitution of the Pacific

side organization, which is printed elsewhere in this issue of "ACTION". Let it be known that from July 4th., 1946, we are all to be known as the "CANAL ZONE WORKERS UNION". Details of the merger of these large groups will be revealed at a later date.

GIVE THE FULL NAME OF THE FOLLOWING TRADE UNIONS

1. C.Z.W.U.
2. F.S.T.P.
3. C.I.O.
4. U.P.W.A.
5. W.F.T.U.
6. N.M.U.
7. U.A.W.
8. C.T.A.L.
9. Name the president of the F.S.T.P.
10. Name the president of the C.I.O.
11. Name the president of the U.P.W.A.
12. Name the president of C.T.A.L.
13. Which 2 largest Unions have recently amalgamated?

Announcing

Tune in on

'RADIO MIRAMAR'

from 7:45 p. m. to 8:00 p. m.

TULIA AMINTA CAJAR