

TODAY'S TRENDS

By FOSTER BOURNES

While observing the recent departure of "silver" roll repatriates (Tuesday, November 30, on the Reina del Pacifico) we recalled an interesting footnote of Canal construction history.

On March 4, 1915, President Woodrow Wilson approved a resolution which was passed by the Congress, expressing gratitude to officers of Army, Navy and Public Health Service who had served with the Isthmian Canal Commission. This resolution (38 Stat. 1190; 1191) provided substantial benefits for those officers, but somehow ignored the heroic sacrifices of the civilians who were connected with the vast undertaking. There was an immediate hue and cry of DISCRIMINATION.

The hard hitting General Goethals, protested to the Secretary of War (January 22, 1916) in the following terms. "It is deemed unnecessary to set forth the feeling of injustice that was aroused in the organization by the passage of this act because of its discrimination against the large class of employees not fortunate enough to belong to any of the foregoing branches of the public service, but who toward the accomplishment of the goal had worked just as faithfully as, in some instances more loyally than, those who were specifically selected for rewards. That there was just cause for this feeling cannot be questioned, for, I am advised correctly, this is the first instance where the thanks of Congress have been extended to the leaders of any enterprise without in-

cluding all of those associated with it."

President Theodore Roosevelt commented (May 25, 1916) as follows: "As one who was instrumental in getting this work underway and who has followed its progress with deep interest and keen satisfaction, I am greatly concerned in seeing proper recognition accorded the civilian employees". "I sincerely trust that prompt action will be taken by Congress toward the early enactment of legislation to this end."

It is also history that three times has Congress enacted legislation, for civilians who had taken part in the enterprise, from which "silver" employees were excluded.

As the "Reina" took on her "Cargo" of repatriates we wondered about that vignette of Canal history when the shout of discrimination rent the air. And about "The General" and his stirring plea to a President, for recognition of the civilians whose heroic contribution made it possible to complete the task assigned to him.

And now these civilians were leaving, shorn of youth and vigor, but with memories of what used to be. And of the part they played in the construction and maintenance of the great waterway which divides a continent, but unites a world.

We wondered if "The General" would mind if they too shared the accolade he gave to the civilians: "Employees... who toward the accomplishment of the goal had worked just as, in some instances more loyally than, those who were specifically selected for rewards."

such as charter fee, transportation, etc., were all paid for by Local 713, for which reimbursement will later be made.

He emphasized that loans will be made only to those persons who have complied with the laws of the credit union.

Cristobal Credit Union Establishes New Offices

The offices of the Cristobal Credit Union, formerly located in the Cristobal office of Local 713, have been removed to the second floor of the two-story wooden structure adjacent to the Camp Bird Theater. In this building are housed the shoe repair shop, the cleaning and pressing shop, etc.

The office hours are from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M., Monday thru Friday.

similar resolution passed at the past International Convention.

RESOLUTION ON JOE SACHS

Whereas: For obvious reasons the name Joe Sachs will never be erased from the records of Local 713, neither will it be forgotten by the membership, and

Whereas: Local 713 has continually voiced support in the legal defense of Joe Sachs and have so evidenced in concrete forms, and

Whereas: The so-called "Silver" workers, members of Local 713 have maintained a solid, united and unbroken front in the face of innum-

Uncle Dudley Says:

Now that they have done away with the "silver-gold" LABELS, let's start working on the discrimination.

Why pay 10¢ for stale news when you can get it hot off the press for five?

Following is a recent telephone conversation reported to me by a union member:

A:— Hello, is this the 'gold' rollkeeper?

B:— This is the "states rates" rollkeeper. No more of the "gold" business.

A:— What did you say?

B:— I said states rates.

A:— States rights?

B:— No! States rates, states rates!

A:— Oh, I see.

(15 minutes later "A" calls another office).

A:— Hello, is this the 'states rates' rollkeeper?

B:— What?

A:— The states rates rollkeeper.

B:— States rights?

A:— No. States rates states rates!

B:— I'm sorry I don't know what you're talking about.

A:— Well, give me the "gold" rollkeeper then.

B:— Why in the blankety-blank didn't you say so in the first place.

able attacks from all focal points in the legal defense of Joe Sachs;

Therefore be it Resolved: That the International Union be advised that Local 713 will always stand firm with the United Public Workers of America in their appeal on Joe Sachs' Case.

RESOLUTION ON RETIREMENT PLAN

WHEREAS: "Silver" employees over a period of 40 years, in the greatest measure possible have given brain, brawn and in many recorded instances, their very lives towards the successful operation and progress of The Panama Canal, and

WHEREAS: It is impossible for them to cope with the high cost of living in the Canal Zone and the Republic of Panama on the meagre "Disability Relief" paid to the faithful unfortunates, and

WHEREAS: Even to this date absolutely no Retirement Act has included the "Silver" worker in recognition for services loyally and faithfully rendered, and

WHEREAS: Legislation sponsored by the United Public Workers of America, CIO have been placed before the 80th Congress of the United States of America, to this date unsuccessfully, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the United Public Workers legislation on the Retirement Plan for "Silver" employees be forcefully and expeditiously pressed with the same or added intensity in the coming session of Congress, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Canal Zone Admi-

Grievances Here And There

Stewards Reginald Carter and George Grannum went to bat for two union members who received reduction-in-force notices in the Mechanical Division last month. As a result of their expert handling and the fair attitude of the Master Machinist, Brothers John Richards and Frank Grant were re-instated to their jobs.

The stewards were able to show that through merit and seniority these employees were entitled to retain their job.

Brother John James was penalized one trip in the Marine Division for misuse of a coupon book. Since he had already been punished by the Executive Office for the offense, Organizer Moore protested the double penalty. It was agreed that the imposition of a double penalty was unfair and the trip was restored.

Brother Alberto Cabeza, a Canal Seaman, was fired for "excessive absences". Organizer Moore with the capable help of Marine Division Stewards, appealed the decision and

was able to secure re-instatement of Brother Cabeza.

Alert action by Brother Joe Murray, Mechanical Division steward, brought sizeable increases to four employees who were rerated as a result of Mechanical Division lay-offs. Brothers E. Castillo, E. Lucero, E. Erdocia, and E. Amaya all received 8¢ per hour increases when Murray pointed out to the supervisor that pay regulations permitted these employees to be put in the top step of their grade when re-instated.

Brother Clifford Henry of the La Boca Commissary, who was demoted for "excessive stock shortage", is now appealing his case to the fourth stage. Brother Henry is being represented by Organizers Millwood and Moore.

Brother Bernardo Mootoo, an Army employee, was discharged for "using abusive language to a passing motorist". His case is now being appealed to the third stage by Organizer Moore.

Time Magazine Reports Official C. Z. Ban of "Silver", "Gold" Terms

In its December 6th issue Time magazine contains an interesting account of the banishment of the "silver-gold" terminology by the Canal Zone in an article captioned, "Off the Gold Standard".

The article describes the

historical origin of the terms and credits the campaign of United Workers with the dramatic change. The article also spoke of the investigation ordered by Secretary of State Marshall into Canal Zone discrimination.

The article quoted Colonel F. H. Wang, Executive Secretary, as saying, "Soon, the gold and silver signs will be collectors items".

administration be called upon to recommend and support inclusion of the Silver Employees under the Canal Zone Retirement Act.

RESOLUTION ON WAGE INCREASE

WHEREAS: Local 713 has pursued an honest and unswerving course, the ultimate object being a better way of life for all so-called "Silver" employees, and

WHEREAS: We have produced established facts and given figures in the presentation of a Brief to the Panama Canal Administration an other interested parties in the year 1947, and recently published other material in further support of better wages, working and living conditions, and

WHEREAS: The cost of living for the so-called "Silver" employees has risen by over 72%, and

WHEREAS: During this same period average monthly wages have increased by only 44%, and

WHEREAS: This lag in wages behind the cost of living has resulted in severe cuts in living standards that were already perilously low, and

WHEREAS: Many employees, particularly in low brackets, are existing on the verge of a starvation level amidst such suffering and misery.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Local 713, UPW-CIO calls upon the Panama Canal-Railroad to establish a minimum wages of 40 cents per hour and that all government

agencies on the Canal Zone grant a general wage increase of 14 cents per hour to all employees,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Local 713 calls upon the International Union to renew its efforts to achieve passage of legislation in Congress establishing a 40 cents per hour minimum wage and granting an across the board increase of 14 cents per hour.

RESOLUTION

On Recreational Facilities

Whereas: Recreation is of vital importance to the well-being of every worker and his family, and

Whereas: The lack of adequate recreational facilities is injurious to our youth and detrimental to mental and physical development and,

Whereas: The lack of these facilities is a prime factor in

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Misleading Rumor Emanates from Cristobal on Credit Union

In the Cristobal sector there has been in circulation a rumor to the effect that the recently established credit union in the Canal Zone are subsidized by the parent body in the United States.

As a result of the spreading of this falsehood there has been several instances wherein credit union members, upon paying the 25¢ registration fee, have applied for loans.

In an interview with Foster Bournes, President of the Cristobal Credit Union, ACCION was told that the Federal Credit Union in the United States does not subsidize any of its branches. Bournes stated that the initial expenses involved,

Resolutions...

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to properly handle the problems connected with youthful offenders, and

Whereas: Imprisoning youths with hardened criminals destroy any opportunity for their rehabilitation,

Therefore be it Resolved: That Local 713, UPW-CIO, urges the Government of the Canal Zone to establish special juvenile processes and a Correctional School to deal with the problem of juvenile delinquency; and

Resolved: That Local 713, calls upon the International Union to redouble its efforts toward establishing juvenile processes in accordance with a

ACCION

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