

Ecusta Wins Five To One

On Friday and Saturday, March 18th and 19th, the employees of Ecusta and Endless Belt voted 5 to 1 to continue their relationship with the companies under the able leadership of Mr. Harry H. Straus.

The election had been called by two American Federation of Labor unions, the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers and the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Makers, who sought to become the bargaining agents for the employees in their relations with the companies. It was held in the Cafeteria under the supervision of examiners of the National Labor Relations Board, with three employees representing Ecusta and three representing the unions. Hugh Bradburn of the Personnel Department, Jack Wilbur of the Refining Room, and James Curwen of the Cashier's office were the representatives for Ecusta.

1,087 of the 1,092 eligible employees voted in the election—for the unions, 181; against the unions, 898; void, 1; and challenged, 7.

Billy Haynie and Walter Warren, of the Machine Room, cut their vacations short so that they could return from Miami, Florida in time to cast their votes. Sherman Ducker, also of the Machine Room, took time out from his treatment at Graylyn Hospital in Winston-Salem to be on hand for the election. Troy Drake and Carolyn Garren, of Champagne, made certain that they would be able to vote. Troy, also, cut his Florida vacation short, and Carolyn left the Transylvania Community Hospital long enough to come to the plant. This was indicative of the intensive effort made by many employees to exercise their right to vote.

Following the election, a stipulation was signed on behalf of the unions and Companies certifying that the election was fairly and accurately held, that the secrecy of the ballot was maintained.

Union organizers have been in Brevard for the past several years and the election was their final effort to settle the question.

After the election Mr. Straus made the following statement:

"I am deeply gratified with the confidence the Ecusta employees have placed in me, and I appreciate all the thoughtful telegrams, letters and messages I have received since the election.

"As soon as I return to my desk from a much needed rest, during which time I am not supposed to do any work, I will thank each one of you personally.

"It is my intention, when I am back in the office, to concentrate on the development of further plans for the benefit of all, of which I will keep you informed in due time.

"If we will all pull together as one team, I am confident that a happy future lies before us."