

Wage Settlements Affect 350,000 Southern Workers

More than 350,000 Southern workers shared in 320 wage settlements during the past month, according to Brunswick A. Bagdon, Southern Regional Director of the U. S. Department of Labor Statistics. These settlements provided increases in 315 instances and decreases in five. The decreases, though small in number, affected approximately 200,000 workers and resulted chiefly from automatic cost-of-living adjustment provisions in various union contracts.*

Less than 70 per cent of the April settlements involved wage increases only; more than 20 per cent involved wage and fringe benefits; and more than 5 per cent provided for additional fringe benefits only. Agreement extensions with no changes in wages or supplementary benefits were concluded in about 2 per cent of the cases.

Wage increases of 5 cents to 10 cents an hour accounted for 52 per cent of the changes. Increases of over 10 cents and up to 20 cents an hour accounted for 32 per cent, while increases of less than 5 cents were granted in only 12 per cent of the settlements. Four per cent of the changes were for over 20 cents an hour. No attempts have been made to determine whether these settlements are permissible under existing Wage Stabilization Board regulations, but about 10 per cent are known to require WSB approval. Wage changes during the month were most frequent in construction, government, metalworking, and transportation.

Approximately 70,000 Southern construction workers in 55 wage settlements received increases ranging from contract extensions without change to 35.5 cents per hour. More than three-fourths of the construction settlements were for more than 10 cents per hour, with most falling in the range of 15 to 20 cents.

In 35 settlements affecting more

than 8,000 metalworking employees, increases ranged from 1 to 25 cents per hour, with most of the adjustments occurring in the 5 to 10 cent range. Several settlements provided only for increased fringe benefits.

In the transportation industry, 33 settlements were noted during the month of April. More than 9,000 employees received increases, with most falling into the 5 to 10 cents range. In the South, wages of more than 200,000 railroad workers, whose rates are tied to changes in the cost-of-living, were cut 1 cent per hour.

The percentage of changes attributable to government settlements accounted for only slightly more than 10 per cent of the changes. Where hourly municipal and state employees received increases they usually amounted to less than 10 cents. Where teachers, policemen, firemen, and administrative officers received increases, the typical amount was \$10 per month, although the range was from \$6 to \$50 per month.

*Information was compiled from direct reports, newspapers, union and trade journals, and other sources.

COUNTY CANDIDATES

Continued From Page 1 following seek this office, only one to be elected: R. Hunt Parker, William H. Bobbitt, Itimous T. Valentine, Oscar O. Efird, Allen H. Gwyn and F. Donald Phillips.

For Congress

Hamilton C. Jones of Charlotte seeks re-election as a member of Congress from the Tenth Congressional District. He is opposed by Thomas Burton.

Sample Ballots

For the purpose of being of assistance to readers of this newspaper and other citizens The Charlotte Labor Journal next week will reproduce a copy of the Sample Ballots, both State and County. It may be worth your while to read over these Sample Ballots and familiarize yourself with the various candidates seeking office and the platform upon which they are running.

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Conference Program

Saturday, May 24, 1952

Sunday, May 25, 1952

- 10:00 A. M. Registration of Delegates and Visitors (Hotel Lobby) (Paul Craft in charge). This desk will remain open until 6:00 P. M.
- 2:00 P. M. Business Session (Kuester Room)
Call to Order by J. T. Primm, President, Charlotte Typographical Union No. 338

Invocation
Rev. Robert H. Stamey
Pastor, Commonwealth Methodist Church, Charlotte
John P. White, Member of the International Typographical Union for 53 years
Address of Welcome,
Mayor Victor Shaw
Address of Welcome,
Chief Frank Littlejohn of the Charlotte Police Department
Opening Session of the Virginia-Carolinas Typographical Conference. President E. M. Hathaway, Presiding
- 4:00 P. M. Tea for the Delegates and Guests of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Virginia-Carolinas Typographical Union, sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of Charlotte. Mrs. Radford B. Alexander, President of the Conference, presiding. (Parlor E & F—Mezzanine)
Guest Speaker: Mrs. Sam Blackwelder, Secretary of Local 375, N. F. P. O. C.
- 9:00 to ??? Dance (Ball Room). Gib Todd's Orchestra. (Informal)

- 9:00 A. M. Business Session (Kuester Room)
- 11:00 A. M. Judge Hubert E. Olive, Candidate for Governor of North Carolina will address the Conference Delegates and Visitors
- 9:30 A. M. Business Session of the Ladjes Auxiliary of the Virginia-Carolinas Typographical Conference. Mrs. Radford B. Alexander, President, presiding (Tryon Room).

Judging of Scrapbook, Poster and Articles, by five members of the Virginia-Carolinas Typographical Conference, chosen at random
- 1:30 P. M. Banquet (Ball Room)
Master of Ceremonies, John P. White

Invocation,
Dr. Chas. G. McClure,
Pastor, Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

Speakers:
Harold H. Clark, Vice-President of the International Typographical Union, Indianapolis, Indiana
Ralph Nicholson, Editor and Publisher of *The Charlotte Observer*
Thomas L. Robinson, Publisher of *The Charlotte News*

Honor Guests

- J. E. DOWD, General Manager, *Charlotte News*
- H. A. ALLEN, Business Manager, *Charlotte Observer*
- C. A. FINK, President, *North Carolina State Federation of Labor*, Salisbury, N. C.
- HUBERT E. OLIVE, Candidate for Governor of North Carolina, Lexington, N. C.
- VICTOR SHAW, Mayor of Charlotte
- JORD H. JORDAN, President of *Herald Press, Inc.* Charlotte
- GILES C. COURTNEY, Richmond, Va., former Secretary-Treasurer of the *Virginia-Carolinas Typographical Conference* and formerly a representative of the *International Typographical Union*

The Charlotte Story . . .

Charlotte, Queen City of the South, situated in the heart of the Piedmont Carolinas, is the largest city of North and South Carolina. In just half a century Charlotte has grown from a town of 18,091 inhabitants to a bustling city of 134,000 persons. This rapid and substantial growth is proof of the economic pre-eminence of the city as a great commercial and manufacturing center serving two states.

When incorporated as a town in 1768 Charlotte embraced only 360 acres of land and could boast but a handful of sturdy settlers. Small as it was, the town played a spunky and effective part in the Revolutionary War. British General Cornwallis was so stung by the resistance of Charlotte patriots that he withdrew from the town, calling it "a dammed hornets nest." A hornets nest is now part of the official city seal, symbolic of the patriotism of its founders.

With more than 1,325,000 people living within easy motoring distance of Charlotte, the city has become one of the 25 greatest markets in the nation. Retail sales volume now approximates \$230,000,000 annually. Nearly 1350 retail establishments in the city offer consumers almost every conceivable product. Downtown streets are lined with modern, well-appointed stores which, through attractive merchandising, draw people from all sections of the Piedmont. Total buying power of the Charlotte market exceeds \$1,000,000,000 annually, and the city's individual and per family buying power is tops for the Carolinas.

Although a newcomer to the ranks of great cities, Charlotte has a mellow past which is closely associated with all the great traditions upon which America was founded. On May 20, 1775, Charlotte patriots signed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, a document which, although not generally acted upon until a year later, laid the foundation for the American Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The date of the Mecklenburg Declaration appears on the State flag.

Charlotte's present day economy is so widely diversified that her importance cannot be attributed to any particular industry or business. Commercial activity in the city is closely allied with the entire central Piedmont region, which looks to Charlotte as its focal point. Perhaps the most

important segments of the Queen City's economy are wholesale and retail distribution, manufacturing, transportation, and finance.

Two of the South's best known and most widely circulated newspapers are published daily in Charlotte. *The Charlotte Observer* and *The Charlotte News*. There are five radio stations representing all the major networks and one television station now in operation. Southern Bell Telephone Company, with over 57,000 telephones in the Charlotte exchange, maintains its North Carolina headquarters in Charlotte.



Aerial View of Charlotte

Nobody needs statistics to see what is happening Charlotte. Wholesalers are in business in wholesale quantities. Ride out West Morehead, along Thrift Road, turn right onto Tuckaseegee; take a look at North Tryon, Dalton Avenue, Atando Avenue, and a dozen others. The landslide is there in brick and mortar, rail sidings and loading platforms. Warehouses and their strong right arms, trucking terminals, are popping out like puffs of popcorn on a hot stove. But these new warehouses and terminals are not nearly as temporary as popcorn; they are here to stay as a major part of Charlotte's economy.

Charlotte citizens have a deep faith in the destiny of their Charlotte. They believe their city will continue to grow as the South grows and that anything good for Charlotte is good for them. From this fundamental code stems the magnificent spirit of progress and growth which has enveloped the Queen City of the South.