Electricity was still pretty much of a novelty when the last century was drawing to its close and the pioneering of Edison and Steinmetz was as much a puzzle then as nuclear fission is to us today. But electrical work was exciting—it hired men with imagination who were eager to accept the challenge of a partly known—men, in other words, of spirit.

And being men of spirit, they were not inclined to accept hopeless, hand-to-mouth wages and harsh working conditions imposed by the mighty power, telephone and telegraph corporations which were springing up across the nation. The employers were calling to the ever-present dangers of work with a force as powerful as electrical energy. The individual worker was at their mercy. So some men and menaces from all parts of the country went to St. Louis in 1890 to prepare a "glorious display of electrical clowns" in connection with the World's Fair. It was perhaps natural that they got together and talked about something better than 28 cents an hour for a 12-hour day and a seven-day work—especially when the electricity they sought to harness might burn them to a crisp at any minute.

They called in Charles Canuel, an organizer for the former American Federation of Labor and were chartered as Federal Labor Union No. 5221 on Sept. 20, 1890. L. Henry Miller of St. Louis was elected president of the Local. He and the others who attended the meeting realized that it was but a starting point. What they really needed, they knew, was a national organization of electrical workers that could meet powerful employers on equal terms.

By the end of the year, locals were established in Chicago, Milwaukee, Evansville, Ind., Louisville, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Duluth, Minn.

Before long there was a call to convention. It opened on Nov. 21, 1891, in an upper floor of Slooney's Dance Hall in St. Louis. There were only 18 delegates representing slightly less than 300 workers.

On Nov. 28 it was formally organized the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The organization started life flat broke, and had to borrow $150 from the St. Louis Local to get under way. Henry Miller was elected president of the Brotherhood.

TOUGH SLEDDING IN THE EARLY YEARS

Miller spent most of the first year organizing, regularly visiting every city between New Orleans and Boston and supporting himself by working at the trade. When the second convention was held in Chicago in 1892, the 43 locals had more than 2,000 members, and there was $646.10 in the treasury. Things got worse instead of better, but men who earned their bread by dally flirting with death were not to be kept down either by hostility of their employers or the depression of the mid-1890s.

In 1894 Sec-Treas. J. T. Kelly had to mortgage his household furniture to keep the organization going. The 1895 convention, held in New Orleans, authorized the Brotherhood to raise a call for a national convention. Miller attended the first, in Cincinnati, in 1896, where he met with a group of others who attended the meetings of the B.W. Union of St. Louis and the Brotherhood.

THESE EARLY YEARS

Local Union 1245 was informally organized in Chicago in 1895. It was chartered as the Electrical Workers' Union in 1897.

In this dence hall in St. Louis, on an upper floor, 10 men met and on Nov. 28, 1891, founded the "National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers."

The IBEW has had many "homes" in the last 65 years and International Headquarters is now housed in this fine, modern building in Washington, where a staff of 190 men and women keep the union wheels grinding. This is a far cry from the St. Louis dance hall in which the Brotherhood was born 65 years ago.

PG&E PROPOSES CHANGES IN HOSPITALIZATION PLAN

PG&E, through the PSEA, is proposing a change in the Hospitalization Plan, effective Jan. 1, 1957, which would provide a supplemental major medical coverage for members of the Plan and their dependents. The Plan, now in effect for PSEA members and their dependents only, would be made available to all employees whether or not they are or remain members of the PSEA.

Local Union 1245 was informally advised on Dec. 7 of the proposed changes and was requested to advise the Company as to the Union's attitude toward the proposed change.

The Company does not propose to bargain collectively with the Union covering employees in the bargaining units or execute an agreement in connection with this change. The PSEA will handle the explanations, discussion, and meetings.

Merry Christmas

The staff, officers, and office girls of Local 1245 wish to extend our very best to all of you and families during the holiday season. May you enjoy Christmas and the coming year to the fullest.


AT THE IBEW HELM—With 65 years of great achievement in the past and with many new gains in the years ahead, the course of IBEW now is charted by Pres. Gordon Freeman (above, left) and Secy. Joe Keenan.

KNOW YOUR OFFICERS

WALTER R. MARTIN, Treasurer

Walter Martin, born on January 27, 1905, spent his boyhood on his father's large cattle ranch in Elko County, Nevada. His family, in 1917, moved to Oakland where Walt attended grammar and high schools.

While attending the University of California, he joined the U.S. Army and was commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery during World War II. After leaving the Army, he joined the American System (A.S.), making sales calls for the company.

Walter Martin was elected Treasurer of Local 1245 in 1972 and has held that position ever since. He has been named Outstanding Member of the Year several times.

M. SCOTTY) SHAW, Recording Secretary

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M. SCOTTY SHAW, Recording Secretary

Born in the historic city of Montreal, Canada, in 1919, Brother M. SCOTTY SHAW crossed the border to New England in 1937 and took up residence in the United States. At an outstanding skiller, he put his talents to work and taught skiing in the early New England country until March of 1937, when he joined the U.S. Army. After graduating from high school, he went to work for Studer and later to United Electric. He was commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Tank Corps, after more than 5 years of enlisted service. He taught his way across the Pacific with an amphibious tank outfit, attached at

(Continued on Page 2)
The Utility Reporter

December 5th marked the first anniversary of the merger of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations, an occasion to be long remembered by organized labor.

There were great expressions of misgivings and even opposition to the amalgamation of the two great labor federations at the ancient Armory in New York City that frigid December morning.

A year of living together has dissipated the fears and those who preferred the old or the new are silent, because the AFL-CIO is fulfilling its destiny and is being solved in modern methods leading to the blueprints of its architecture.

In the first year, in 19 states the old AFL and CIO groups have been merged at the state level within the past few months, all others will follow suit, and the leaders of its affiliates that complete unity will be effected by the end of the 1957, the year for voluntary amalgamation.

The AFL-CIO, in its first year, has expressed a majority of its critics. Looking glumly, through dark glasses, those who threatened to see only a "monopoly," a "monopolistic power play," a "monopoly union," or what have you. "There is nothing in the record to satisfy these hostile predictions.

Speaking before the convention of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Washington, President George Meany once said, "A monopoly is the only first step," with many problems still to be solved. "Only a minority," it has been said, the rest of the job can be completed ahead of our most optimistic hopes.

Both President Meany and Sec-Treas. Wm. Schnitzer are in agreement that the internal problems of the separate federations inherited by the new organization are no more severe than before. In fact, the solution of some of them is nearer.

One of what Meany once called the "one per cent"—or the unethical or racketeering element within labor. After an expected slow start, the AFL-CIO Ethical Practices Committee is now moving along in high gear in its investigation of racketeering in affiliated unions.

It is fitting that on the anniversary of the merger, attention is focused on the philosophy of several international unions accused of shady practices has suspended one of its top officers who is accused of wrongdoing. No doubt there will be more investigating by the committee reports the outcome of its investigations to the next meeting of the AFL-CIO Executive Council. In fact, some of the unions may elect to do some of their own investigating before they resume the AFL-CIO moves to wind up the job.

The labor press convention itself was more evidence that labor leaders have accepted the theory. This is the first time the press representatives of the old divided labor movement had met as one organization.

Several times, strong, and有效.

The united labor press is charged with a major share of the responsibility for making the merger a success. The Usual eager caution demanded that it accepts that responsibility and that it is delivering.

To mark the first birthday of its first birthday, it radiates a spirit of "confidence and determination"—better prepared now than a year ago for the great tasks and opportunities which it ahead.

We congratulate George Meany, Bill Schnitzer, the vice-presidents, and everyone else who has helped the unified AFL-CIO to grow stronger during this past year.

AFL-CIO's 1st Birthday

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argue with the boss and be through with it in negotiations and other grievances. If management representatives sometimes think the union is unreasonable, union members claim it to be the same for the company. So we argue and we talk and it all comes down to a give and take. In this year just closing, most of the agreements we have witnessed have improved as a result of this bargaining.

All of us are making a better living than we did a year ago. And, as a result, we have boosted the country's ability to buy the necessities of those of us who have gone up in price. In addition, the whole system of our factories is working. And we are in a better position to help, without the loss of an hour of wage.

Everyone knows that it takes a whole year to make a laws and the bills are too long to read. If we give up that takes two to get a bill passed.

A successful agreement takes skill and understanding and patience. Nevertheless, we can be proud that relations between labor and management have improved in this year's past in the petroleum field, which has Local 1245 members work.

There's still plenty of room for improvement in both wages and conditions of work. Unless, as in this year, system collapses, there will always be. Only a few years ago, a dollar an hour was considered a good wage. Today, no HBW member would work for such a low wage.

And, despite the hours of the newspaper writers in our daily newspapers, business is making more profits than they did when our wages were $1 an hour.

Higher wages and higher prices make it partly the result of greater productivity and increase more possible by improving skills, and by better union management.

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There should be no shortage of workers in the future. So many have been made, we must have more. So many have been made, we must have more.

Trouble is, we need them right away, because we need America strong and free. But we're using them fast. According to the National Safety Council, about half of the 10,000 personal injuries of work last year are workers. About half of the 10,000 personal injuries of work last year are workers. Too.

Motor-vehicle accidents cause a red-ribbon-bounded stream of goods to the National Safety Council, which must be dealt with by the local committees. The National Safety Council, in New York, has taken the Los Angeles Times, and has managed to make the Los Angeles Times a red-ribbon-bounded stream of goods.

There is no one of the characters of the Eufra, a newspaper published by the Salvation Army, and his editor has been a newspaper.

Just who is this "we" they're talking about? A man with a pen and a newspaper really doesn't exist. Even the "right-to-work" movement is nothing more than a red-ribbon-bounded stream of goods to this beneficient statute.

No Sloppy Work in Santa Rosa

IBEW Local 33 in Santa Rosa, is high standards of craftsmanship and this is an organization that has its own inspection committee, which looks after the term and ensures that the work is maintained. The members failed recently to meet these standards, so the organizers have had a meeting with the members. The term of Local 33 is 2 years and we look forward to seeing the results of this meeting.
MEAN CALLS FOR FINANCIAL AID FOR HUNGARIAN WORKERS

AFL-CIO unions wishing to provide financial aid to Hungarian workers may send contributions directly to Pres. George Meany, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.


Staff Hosts Negotiating Committee and Wives

The staff of Local 1154 were hosts to the System Negotiating Commit-tee and Wives who were in Reno for a meeting of the Electrical Department certified the agreements.

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