

VEGAS COMMENDS LABOR ON PROGRESS

History Of City's Union Development Shows Both Progress, Perseverance

From Small Group 18 Months Ago, Organization of 300 Develops.

GROWTH IS FAST

Laborites Today Staging Second Labor Day Fete Since Organization.

From a group of men who eighteen months ago dedicated themselves to the purpose of unionizing themselves, the labor movement in Las Vegas has grown to such proportions that the Central Labor Union now is capable of engineering successfully a great Labor day program, with entertainment for all during the afternoon and evening.

Last Labor Day, a year ago, the Central Labor Union put over a big celebration which, despite the heavy rain that fell that day, was a worthy precedent to this year's celebration. It happened, however, as the citizens are congratulating themselves on the recent start of the Boulder Dam Work.

And last year's program came but a year from the time the first union in the city received its charter from the American Federation of Labor.

EIGHTEEN MONTHS OLD

In March, 1925, thirty months after the Boulder Dam act was signed by President Calvin Coolidge, the newly formed Palmetto

Decorators' and Paperhangers' union received its charter and held its first regular meeting as a full-fledged unit of the A. F. of L. with Tim Poorman as president and C. E. Duran as vice president.

This was during the boom days which resulted from the first dam, finite legislative assurance that Boulder Dam would be built, and while money was plentiful, men and capital were swarming to the town and building activity was enjoying a great acceleration.

The result of the great boost in business and building was that a fertile field for organizing of the other crafts presented itself, and one after another the workers unionized themselves, calling in organizers and representatives of the A. F. of L. from California and from national and district headquarters, to help them perfect their machinery.

Other crafts to form locals were the carpenters, which numbered the greatest membership of all, the painters, the plumbers, the laborers and the plasterers.

COUNCIL CHARTER GRANTED

When the membership of the various unions had reached several hundreds in number, and when their organizations were sufficiently strong and well schooled in the principles of the American Federation of Labor, application was made for a Central Labor Council charter. This was promptly granted, and the various unions were knit together in one coherent

Key Pittman

One of the most tireless and persistent exponents of Boulder dam legislation, Senator Key Pittman of Nevada has had a large share in the passage of the bills which have made possible the carrying forward of the great project in its present stage of activity.



Senator Key Pittman.

Six months after the first union was formed, and during the time when the city was in the post-boom period of anti-climax, the union made a success of Labor day.

Through the months of lessening activity in building, and seeming slackening of prosperity, through the months during which Vegas patiently waited for Arizona's threats to be wiped out by congressional appropriation for Boulder dam, through the months which worked more idle and many compelled to seek employment elsewhere, the unions clung to their organization, nurtured it and kept it alive despite the disheartening and differences that invariably come with adversity.

Through courtesy of the Boulder Club, the unions have been permitted the free use of the second floor of the Boulder Club building, and regular meetings of the crafts and the central organization are held there.

CAMPAIGN SUCCEEDS

The union movement here was largely responsible for the seeking after and the final attainment, at a recent date, of a deputy state labor commissioner's office in this city.

This office will be established within the next two weeks with a free U. S. public employment and information bureau in conjunction, enabling labor to settle possible difficulties with employers through the local office instead of having to resort to the bringing of the state commissioner from a point five hundred miles away, or allowing their difficulties to go unattended.

It will greatly aid in finding work for the men who deserve it, and in giving workers a far off information concerning the employment situation in Las Vegas and at Boulder Dam.

From a membership of about 300 a few months ago the unions have grown to show there are more than 900. At one time, during the prosperous days, there were

Labor Day Committee

The labor union officials and committee responsible for the staging of today's great Labor Day celebration, from resdee's left to right, are: Martin Connell and James Farndale, committeemen; William Gore, celebration committee chairman; Robert H. Elser, head of Central Labor Union; Ira Liebert, financial secretary; treasurer of the Union Charles Watkins; Central Labor Union guard, and Eddie Bruner, committeeman.



Review Staff Photo.

dent, Ira Liebert, financial secretary; James Farndale, recording secretary; Charles Watkins, guard and B. W. Solder, guard.

The committee in charge of today's celebration program is headed by William Gore, president of the barbers. The members of the committee are R. H. Elser, Martin Connell, James Farndale and Eddie Bruner.

The trustees of the Central Labor Union are James Farndale, Charles Watkins and B. W. Solder. The delegates are Jim Solder, James Farndale and Mr. Solder of the carpenters; H. Elser and B. W. Solder of the plumbers; J. E. Herman, C. E. Duran and Eddie Bruner of the painters; Charles Watkins and William Connell of the laborers; and Charles Watkins, Martin Connell and Ira Liebert of the laborers.

The present officers of the various unions are as follows:

Carpenters: Jim Solder, president; John Slater, vice president; and A. J. Bauer, secretary-treasurer.

Plumbers: B. W. Solder, president; R. F. Farley, vice president; and R. H. Elser, secretary-treasurer.

Painters: C. E. Duran, president; John Slater, vice president; and A. J. Bauer, secretary-treasurer.

Laborers: Charles Watkins, president; Martin Connell, vice president; and Jack Drake, secretary-treasurer.

Barbers: William Gore, president; A. Farley, vice president; and L. O. Bates, secretary-treasurer.

Plasterers: Paul Robertson, president; and Harry Douglas, secretary-treasurer.

The general assembly in Las Vegas has made a big thing out of the occasion of the Labor Day celebration, and has set a good many precedents to be followed in the future.