

Deposited by Mrs O'Neil and Mrs A. Hughes 1971
Access: Available for research

J. H. O'NEIL, TRADE UNIONIST

John Henry (Jack) O'Neil (1888-1971) was known as the King of the Tasmanian Trades Union movement. He was secretary of the Hobart Trades Hall Council 1927-1968 (except for a break due to ill health 1958-62) and was a foundation member and Vice-President of the A.C.T.U. He first joined the Carters and Drivers' Union at 18 in 1907 and he was a member of its Wages Board in 1911. He was State Secretary of several unions, namely: Carters and Drivers 1916 - 1942, Storemen and Packers 1917 - 1951, Electricity 1917 - 1953, Gas Employees 1918 - 1951, Federated Confectioners 1944 - 1968 and also of the Meat Industries and the Miscellaneous Workers unions and he was secretary to the 8 Hour Day Committee from 1921. He was an Associate Commissioner of the Hydro-Electric Commission 1954 - 1970 and was a Justice of the Peace.

Jack O'Neil was born in Hobart on 30 August 1888 and attended Thomas Mitchell's St. Mary's Boys School, where he was a member of the 12 boy squad which did exhibitions of military drilling using Enfield muzzle loading carbine rifles (see *Mercury* 24.7.64). In 1905 he married Florence Mabel Stead and they had 4 children: John James, Daphne Edna (Mrs A. Hughes), Phyllis Jean and Maxwell.

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TRADES HALL COUNCIL

- 1 25 years service as secretary June 1952
Correspondence and press cuttings relating to the celebration of J.H.O'Neil's 25 years service as secretary of Trades Hall Council, notes for speech including history of Trades Union and control of working hours and Wages Board Acts.
(folder)
- 2 Resignation Mar. - May 1958
Correspondence relating to J.H.O'Neil's resignation as secretary and delegate to State Executive owing to ill health and eye operation.
(folder)
- 3 Signatures of guests at dinner in honour of J.H.O'Neil's resignation 19 Apr. 1958
Signatures of guests, including O'Neil, in presentation folder.
- 4 Retirement 1968
Letters and statements in tribute to his work (1967-70), including minutes of Federated Confectioners' Association of Australia Conference, Adelaide, 20 -24 Apr. 1970.
(folder)
- 5 80th & 82nd Birthdays 1968,1970
Letters in tribute from Cadbury Fry Pascall, Tasmanian Employees Federation, Eric Reece.
(folder)

TRADES UNION ARCHIVES A.N.U

- 6 A.N.U Trades Union Archives 1959 - 1960
Correspondence with the Australian National University about the establishment of Labour Party and Trades Union Archives, including lists of pamphlets donated by O'Neil November 1959.
(folder)

HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMMISSION

- 0.1/7 Associate Commissioner 1954 -1970
Official appointment as Associate Commissioner, 1954, and correspondence relating to his retirement (1970), staff discount on H.E.C. charges, brief notes on the history of the H.E.C.
(folder)
- 8 H.E.C Photograph album 1970
Commemorative album of photographs of dams and power stations presented to J.H.O'Neil on his retirement
(leather bound album)

BIOGRAPHICAL AND PERSONAL

- 9 Biographical notes 29.7.1965
(typed)
- 10 Press cuttings 1921 - 1970
Personal tributes etc., including 8 Hour Day parade 1921, carbine rifles used by Thomas Mitchell to drill boys found in roof of St. Peter's School 1964.
(folder)
- 11 Photographs
- 1) J.J. O'Neil. Reprint from *The Journal of the Building Transport & Timber Workers' Union* vol.1 No.1
 - 2) J.H.O'Neil addressing Trades Hall Council Meeting 2 Sept 1962
 - 3) Trades Hall Council Meeting 2 Sept. 1962
 - 4) H.E.C.Commissioner & Associate Commissioners:
A.Knight,G.Newstead,L.A.Johnstone,J.H.O'Neil. Signed nd
- 12 *Journal of the Building, Transport & Timber Workers' Union* vol.1 No.1 ND
Includes photo, article on J.H.O'N's retirement and article by J.H.O'N.: "Why workers need trades union organisation".