Shorter Hours
of work for labor will aid in making life and working conditions better for all who toil for a living.

Labor Statesman

OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY THE VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Union Men
of Vancouver district earn half a million dollars each month, and spend their wages at home with friends of Labor.

Supported by Sixty-two Local Unions

No. 401 VANCOUVER, CANADA, MARCH, 1932 Price: Five Cents

The Week At Ottawa

By ANGUS MacINNIS, M.P.

If this session is looked backward *to as one of outstanding achievement* by the people of Canada, it will not be because of anything in the speech from the throne. It must be remembered that while the Governor-General reads the speech, it is put *into his mouth by the Government.* It said, in part:

"You enter upon your duties at a time of continuing and universal economic disturbance and distress. World conditions are beyond the *control of the Canadian people.*"

Here, indeed, is a gain, as, about eighteen months ago, the present Government would not concede that world conditions had any bearing on Canadian affairs. They maintained *that they were due altogether to the* fiscal policy of the Government then in office. That since July, 1930, they have learned that the world is an economic unit, a fact that any schoolboy should be reprimanded for not knowing, is *something* to be thankful for. I doubt if ten intelligent, thoughtful persons in the whole of the Dominion could honestly agree with this sentence from the speech: "Conditions are gradually improving." What condition, or what section or class in the country, if we except the banks and a few industries that have a monopoly, have improved their position in the last six months? Wages falling, unemployment increasing, markets shortening, prices dropping; it is hard to find the "gradual improvement."

The speech says:

"I congratulate you on the fortitude and patience with which the people of Canada have borne the hardships of this period of depression and maintained their usual high regard for law and order."

That this statement is true none can deny, but whether it is a matter for congratulations, I am not prepared to say. There is a time when the enduring of hardships ceases to be a virtue, and that time is when, by the exercise of intelligence, their hardships could be removed. And even members of the Government agree that this is a country of great potential wealth. Consequently, all we need is proper organization of the national inheritance.

We are promised "rigid economy, consistent with the discharge of those statutory and contractual obligations, which is essential to the preservation of the integrity and credit of the Dominion." I suppose that this means bond interest will be paid if the rest of the people die of slow starvation.

It is a question how far "rigid economy" can be harmonized with the abundance of the natural resources of this Dominion in field, mine, forest and sea; and with the efficiency of our means of production and of our manpower. Nor can it be harmonized with the display of wealth at the opening of Parliament itself and the social functions which preceded and followed it. Four full pages in the Ottawa papers were taken up to describe the dresses worn by the ladies who attended the opening.

I have no objection to fine clothes. They add both dignity and charm. But while some people who, perhaps, have never done a day's useful toil in their lives, dress in the costliest fabrics drawn from the far corners of the earth, while others, whose years have been filled with labor, must go in rags, it is time to forget the cant of "rigid economy." All it means is a further degradation of the standard of living of the working class in a world overwhelmed with abundance.

After the members of the Commons returned to that chamber, an event took place which never before had happened in the Canadian Parliament. In the by-election for the Federal seat in East Hamilton, in August, 1931, Humphrey Mitchell, the Labor candidate, was elected, and while Mr. Mitchell is not the first Labor member to take a seat in the House of Commons, he is the first one to be elected in a Federal by-election, and consequently had to be introduced to Mr. Speaker. He was escorted to the Speaker's chair by Mr. J. S. Woodsworth and Mr. A. A. Heaps, the two senior Labor members in the House.

The glamour and the noise over, the people of Canada will no doubt be waiting to hear what is going to be done to bring the wealth of this country within the reach of even the humblest of its people.

In reply to the address debate, Robert Gardiner, leader of the U. F. A. group, and who, with Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, is the House leader of the co-operating group, which is the name given to the combined Farmer and Labor groups, made a slashing attack on the speech from the throne and the general policy of the Government. Referring to the Government's policy of "rigid economy," he said: "What is real economy? There are different opinions in this country as to what it is; therefore, I shall state that so far as I am concerned, I believe that economy, properly understood, is the orderly arrangement and management of the affairs of the community and the wise and efficient use of its resources."

I do not think that anyone can quarrel with that definition. But is there wise and efficient management of the country's resources? On the other hand, we have men, women and children suffering intensely and actually deteriorating mentally and physically for lack of those things which are rotting in our stores and warehouses, or which could be so abundantly produced. Referring to the statement in the speech that economic conditions were improving, he said: "In my judgment, agriculture today in Western Canada is in a far worse condition than it was 12 months ago, that there are far more farmers insolvent and on the brink of bankruptcy than there ever has been in the history of the West."

The next speaker was J. S. Woodsworth, leader of the Labor group. He confined himself largely to pointing out the serious condition that the world is in, quoting from world-recognized economists, bankers, and reports of national and international commissions to substantiate his statements.

In reference to the 10 per cent reduction for the Civil Service, he wanted to know why an exception should be made in the salary of judges, and why should there not be a 10 per cent reduction in the bonded indebtedness of the country, the interest of which amounts to a million dollars per day.

On Wednesday, Tom Reid of New *Westminster, moved the adjournment* of the House, to discuss the unemployed situation in Burnaby, where, because of a dispute between the Federal and Provincial governments, the workers on unemployed *relief work are not being paid.* The discussion was brief, but all the British Columbia members on the Opposition side of the House took part. The Minister of Labor replied, saying that the chief difficulty was *that the Provincial Government was* unable to forward its vouchers, in accordance with the agreement with the Federal Government, promptly enough to enable it to carry out properly its financial obligation to the *municipalities and the banks.*

That the continuing depression is having some effect on the mentality of the Government is apparent from the fact that a motion made by a member of the Co-operating Group, *that the Government should give* consideration to the appointment of a National Council of Social and Economic Research, was accepted. The same motion was made last year but the Government would have none *of it.* Of course, the acceptance of the motion does not mean very much as, until the Government comes to a definite realization that the difficulties that the capitalist world is meeting at present do not arise from *extraneous causes,* but are inherent in our economic system, nothing much will be done or can be done to bring about better times.

The greatest question facing the industrialized countries of the world at the present time is, undoubtedly, how to keep the property-less portion of their population employed, so that they will not have to be fed and clothed out of surpluses already produced and in the possession of the owning class. The problem is two-fold: On the one hand, it is how to feed, cloth and shelter an ever-increasing number of our people who cannot be gainfully employed, and, on the other hand, how to profitably dispose of our huge surpluses of various kinds of commodities which are deteriorating in our granaries and storehouses. This is the paradox that is slowly but surely throttling present civilization despite the fact that there is much work that could and should be done that would increase the joy of living of the whole population. There is also a great need for the goods which lie rotting in the country and a great deal of suffering because they cannot be had by those who need them. In the way of the social good that would be accomplished by doing more work and consuming more goods, stands our economic system, which says that there can be no consumption of goods without purchasing power, no matter how great the need, and no work unless someone can make a profit out of the efforts of the workers.

To obviate to some extent this ridiculous and anti-social state of affairs, Mr. A. A. Heaps submitted the following resolution for the consideration of Parliament:

"Whereas, there are large and increasing numbers of our citizens at present unable to obtain employment and thereby the means of existence; and

"Whereas, during recent years, production has increased enormously; and

"Whereas, real wages have not increased in proportion and thus consumption has not kept pace with production;

"Be it resolved: That, in the opinion of this house, in order to absorb the unemployed into industry, thus eliminating the enormous waste of enforced idleness, the hours of labor be materially reduced and the purchasing power of the masses increased, and further to this end, that the Government be requested to submit the necessary measures to the house."

In putting forward this resolution the Labor members were mindful of the fact that it is not a solution to the problem. But, inasmuch as purchasing power is the pressing need of the day, and as purchasing power comes largely from wages received for work done, we felt that to spread the work among a greater number of workers without decreasing the wages of those at present employed is the quickest and surest way of providing purchasing power.

Discussion from all parts of the House indicated that the depression was having some influence on the thinking of the members, and, although the resolution was not carried, it received some considerable support.

As was anticipated, the Government raised the question of jurisdiction. But provincial questions, particularly in regard to unemployment and other problems which follow in its train, are being daily forced on the Federal Government and are being assumed by that Government in order to protect the financial integrity of the Dominion.

GERMAN WORKERS RESIST HITLERITE CAMPAIGN

The resistance to the Nazis by the Republican working class is growing daily.

Socialist organizations and trade unions, together with the Republicans of the "Richbanner" and the Workers' Sporting Association—which numbers almost 1,000,000 members—have decided to form the "Iron Front."

This movement will launch a strong counter-offensive against Hitler.

Council Again Urges Bank Nationalization

At the last regular meeting of the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council, Secretary Bengough, reporting for the Executive, said that enough information had been obtained from business firms and others to intimate that the banks were advising, and, in many cases this meant demanding, that these firms put wage cuts into operation. It was intimated that these demands had also been made upon city aldermen and provincial legislators, and this, in conjunction with the many other powers over financial matters enjoyed by these banks, that the present banking system is not in the best interest of the working people, and the Executive therefore drew up the following resolution, to be forwarded to Premier Bennett and the Minister of Finance. The resolution was unanimously endorsed:

"Whereas, the banking and credit system, controlling as it does the economic destiny of practically the entire community, is in its nature and manner of functioning actually a public utility and that the private banking system, as now constituted, though custodian of the people's money and savings, is not directly responsible to them for its actions but works primarily for profit and dividend for shareholders, with very little consideration for the general public welfare;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council request the Dominion Government to introduce the necessary legislation, during the present session, for the purpose of nationalizing the Canadian banking system."

France Almost Got a Six-hour Day Law

One of the most remarkable events in recent French history passed almost without notice in this country.

Though the last of European countries to feel the depression, France is feeling it now. There is widespread unemployment — though nothing like that of Britain and *Germany; and French wages are so* low that even French thrift and skill cannot stretch them very far over a period of idleness.

The Socialists introduced a motion in the Chamber of Deputies—corresponding roughly to the British House of Commons—demanding that money be taken from the military budget to relieve the unemployed; that a national unemployment insurance system be established; and that a six-hour working day be decreed by law. It carried by a vote of 292 to 281.

The Government was caught off guard. Premier Laval rushed back to the Chamber and rallied his forces. The motion was reconsidered, and this time defeated by 316 to 257. But the strength of the minority was significant.

Plainly, the French people are profoundly impressed by unemployment. They intend to have their government take measures to check it in time.

Trades Council Opposes Civic Wage Cuts

The proposal of the City Council to cut wages of the civic employees met with opposition from the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, which sent the following letter and a delegation:

February 15th, 1932

His Worship Mayor Taylor and
Members of the City Council,
City Hall, Vancouver, B. C.

Gentlemen,—At a meeting of the Executive of the Trades and Labor Council, held to consider the suggested cut in wages and salaries of civic employees, it was decided to request the City Council to refrain from putting in any cuts on the civic employes.

We view with alarm the curtailment of the purchasing power that will directly result from the city taking such action, with the possibilities of others following the example of the city. It will mean that much less business being done by the citizens, that less goods will be purchased from our merchants, and our ratepayers will have greater difficulty in paying taxes.

The reducing of wages, compelling people to accept lower standards of living, cannot improve present conditions, as the only possible and immediate result is to generally make conditions worse. We believe that the Mayor and Aldermen would not be acting in the best interests of the people of Vancouver if they should assist in making this city a lower paid community. A low-paid city cannot be anything else but a dead one. On the other hand, a high-paid community is a good place to live. If low wages will bring prosperity to a country, then conditions should be ideal on the China coast.

We are conversant with the activities of the banking interests, who are insisting on reductions of wages in all lines of industry, and, at the same time, are endeavoring to raise interest rates. In our opinion, one of the first concerns of the City Council should be to protect the buying power of the citizens, and they cannot do this by advocating reductions in salaries and wages.

In any case, before any change is made in wages and working conditions we would particularly request that you give the representatives of your employees a hearing.

Trusting that you will give this matter your favorable consideration.

Yours truly,

(Signed) PERCY R. BENGOUGH,
General Secretary-Treasurer.

Social Unrest Is Sweeping the U. S.

The pledge made at the Vancouver convention of the American Federation of Labor last October by President William Green that leaders of the trade union movement would "pound on the doors of Congress" *and demand Federal relief for the* unemployed was emphatically redeemed last week.

Led by President Green and Secretary Frank Morrison, the chiefs of practically every national or international *union affiliated* with the A. F. of L. not only told both branches of Congress that "the hungry must be fed, but marched in a body to the White House and laid the same demand for immediate relief *before President Hoover.*

The attention of the President and members of Congress was called to significant developments, such as "protest" meetings and hunger marches, violence and crime, and the *accumulating wave of discontent* and social unrest which is sweeping over the country."

Contrasts Bankers' Relief

"The billions of dollars which Congress has provided for the purpose *of aiding banks, corporations* and business institutions will stand out in sharp, deprecating contrast if Congress fails to promptly help the needy and the hungry.

"Huge sums which have been appropriated *to aid capital cannot* and will not feed hungry people. Human value and needs should be given first rather than secondary consideration. Surely Congress cannot afford to subject itself to the charge that it speedily gave *billions to capital* and nothing to the hungry.

"No satisfactory explanation of such action can ever be made to hungry people and their sympathetic friends."

Two Laborites Head Local School Boards

Harry Neelands, member of the Typographical Union and of the Independent Labor Party, is now chairman of the Vancouver Board of School Trustees, and Tom Russell, member of the Carpenters' Union and of the Independent Labor Party, is chairman of the West Vancouver Board of School Trustees.

Do you know that with the brains, labor, land, and capital at our command, a decent living could be obtained for all? Do you know that Socialism is a scheme for organizing brains, labor, land, and capital so as to obtain the best return possible in health and wealth? Do you know there is no other remedy for the present evil conditions?—R. B. Suthers.

LONGSHOREMEN'S UNION OF NEW YORK WIN STRIKE

New York.—Union Longshoremen, after an 11-day strike, won a complete victory in their fight to prevent *the Grace Line Steamship Company* from cutting wages 15c an hour.

All of the strikers were returned to their jobs at the old wage scale of 85c an hour and $1.20 for overtime. The 44-hour week and other *union conditions are also retained.*

Trades Council Notes

Secretary Bengough reported that while in Ottawa he took up the question of the wage dispute on the C. N. R. Hotel in Vancouver, and that the officials were instructed to recognize the agreement in effect. Upon this basis the contractors were compelled to withdraw their wage-cutting policy, and the strikers were back to work. The strike on the other jobs were settled at the same time, but the question will be opened up again by the contractors on April 1st.

The police interference with Motion Picture Projectionists' pickets on the Royal Theatre was taken up by a committee of the council, and the interference withdrawn. Pickets are still on the job.

Molders reported having resisted the attempts of some city foundries to cut wages.

The Vancouver Exhibition Association informed the council that Del. W. Watt, the Trades and Labor Council delegate to the association, had been placed on the Board of Works Committee.

The Executive reported having sent a letter and a delegation to the City Council protesting the proposed cut in wages for civic employees. Latest information is to the effect that all the aldermen and the Mayor have voted for the wage cut.

Hotel and Restaurant Employees report card had been taken out of the Paramount Cafe.

Milk Salesmen report that canvassers of the Crystal Dairy are making untrue statements when they say they are 100 per cent union. No union men are employed by this firm, and it is on the "We Do Not Patronize" list of the council.

Typographical Union reported that attempts are still being made to cut wages. The Morning Star has ceased to publish, throwing a number out of work. The strike at A. H. Timms has been settled and the men back to work.

Taxi Drivers reported that The Commercial Taxi Cab Company, which was unfair, has gone out of business. The Checker Cab Company is still non-union.

Delegates complained that union labels were missing from the McGavin's Bakery bread. It was explained that the firm ran out of labels, but that four million are on their way here.

In an effort to help their unemployed members, dues and assessments of the Vancouver local of the I. B. of Electrical Workers now amount to $7 per month.

Working members of the Typographical Union are paying 3 per cent of their earnings and laying off two days per month, or donating two days' pay per month to aid their unemployed.

Last month it was intimated in these columns that the Stanley Theatre, on Granville South, was non-union. This is not true. It employs members of the Motion Picture Projectionists' Union.

The Jersey Farms, Limited, alleged purveyors of Jersey cream, are still non-union.

Restaurant Employees' Leap Year Dance

Under the old "Night in the West" style, the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union of Vancouver is holding a Leap Year Dance in the Eagle Hall, 535 Homer street, on Monday evening, February 29th. Dick Gardner's popular orchestra will be on hand to provide the music for the entertainers and dancers. If the waitresses grab a man on this particular night it will only be for a dance and not for life, so don't be afraid to join the merry throng. Dancing starts at 9 and continues till 1 a.m. Refreshments will be on hand. Tickets: Gents 50c, ladies 25c.

MONTREAL SETS WAGE FOR RELIEF PROJECTS

Ottawa, Can.—Rates of pay for unemployment relief work were established at a conference here recently between representatives of the city of Montreal and the Federal sub-committee on unemployment.

The schedules call for payments ranging from $1 an hour for bricklayers to 40 cents for common labor.

Hazards in Logging Industry Too Great

Parker Williams, member of the Workmen's Compensation Board, was invited by the Trades and Labor Council to outline the attack being made by a group of the Loggers' Association upon the assessments made against this group.

He pointed out that the economic breakdown had hit every line of industry and this had reacted on the Workmen's Compensation Board and increased its difficulties.

Some 10,000 firms were covered by the act, and these were grouped into classes and sub-classes, and it was a portion of one of these sub-classes that were contesting the assessments. Rates are related to hazards and the particular group had so enormously increased its hazards that its assessments appeared high in comparison to other trades. The board is accused by the employers of being too generous to the workers, but many workers have contended that the board has not been generous enough with them, hence the difficulties of the board which has to be guided by the interpretations of the act.

Logging has risen from the floor of the forest (where it used to be done) to the air, where height and speed increases the hazards to life and limb of the workers. The horse has been replaced by a machine and the machines have been improved to an extent where logs are drawn along at 800 feet a minute, and the wire and tackle hauled back at 1800 feet a minute. Speed such as this increases the hazards, and figures quoted by Secretary Bengough later show that 320 have been killed and 19,587 injured in logging operations in British Columbia during the past five years.

At one time the average used to be one killed for every 50 million feet of logs hauled, now this has been increased to one killed for every 47 million feet. Added to this increased hazard is the fact that wages have been reduced considerably in the woods, and this increases the assessment.

Two firms who are grouped in this sub-class are not taking part in this dispute with the board, although they are paying higher wages and have a lot fewer accidents.

There is a remedy for this dissatisfied group of loggers, and that is for them to reduce the hazards and accidents in their operations. All other groups are paid up in full and have credits to their accounts, but the act does not and should not cause these people to bear the burden of any industry which fails to protect the lives and limbs of its employees.

The Workmen's Compensation Board of British Columbia has the lowest costs of any board in Canada and has held that position for 14 years. Costs and assessments are also higher in the United States than in British Columbia.

He was heartily applauded and answered many questions to the satisfaction of the delegates.

Says Unemployed Will Become Bums If Fed

The attitude of the well fed in the United States towards the unemployed is demonstrated in the remarks of Senator Fess, who, after *favoring the two billion dollar legislation* to aid the bankerteers and the railroads, declared, in opposition to the La Follette $375,000,000 unemployment relief measure, that if Uncle Sam feeds the hungry now he *will create an army of* "bums" who will forever after expect the Government to support them.

"With all due respect to the Senator from Ohio," thundered Borah, "I denounce that as a slander on the *American people.*

"Ninety per cent of these people would return to work tomorrow, scorn our charity, and refuse our gifts if we would give them an opportunity to work.

"*Because they are down,* because they are in trouble and in misfortune, it does not become a Senator in the Senate of the United States to say that we dare not feed the hungry lest it undermine their *character.*"

Pointing out that Fess had voted money to banks, railroads and insurance companies, Borah declared that the "net result of his philosophy is to take care of those who are *able to give security* and to let those starve who do not possess property."

UNIONIST WAGE OFFICER

Toronto, Ont.—James Watt, a veteran trade unionist of the Tailors' Union has been appointed municipal fair wage officer by the city council.

We Do Not Patronize
THE
ROYAL THEATRE
UNFAIR TO THE B. C. PROJECTIONISTS' UNION

Department of Labour
Statistics Branch 1931

Trades Union Directory

LABOR HEADQUARTERS, 529-531 BEATTY STREET

Vancouver Trades and Labor Council—*President, C. McDonald; general secretary, Percy R. Bengough. Office, 200 Labor Headquarters, 531 Beatty St. Phone Sey. 7495. Meets in Labor Hall at 8 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays in month.*

Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union, Local No. 468, meets first and third Saturday in month at 7:00 p.m. at Labor Headquarters. President, R. P. Davis; Secretary's Office, Room 304, Labor Headquarters; Hours 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Phone: Sey. 3249.

Beverage Dispensers' Union, No. 676—Meets last Sunday at 8 p.m., Room No. 2, Labor Headquarters; second Friday at 10 a.m. at the office. Pres., M. J. Galvin; Secretary and Bus. Agent, T. J. Hanafin. Office: Room 1, Eagles' Hall, 535 Homer St. Phones Sey. 4783 and Bay. 1656-R. Hours: 9 to 2 p.m.

Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, Local 97, Int. Assoc.—Meets every Wednesday, Hall 3, Labor Headquarters, at 8 p.m. President, W. Dickson; Secretary, P. Lauret, Room 311, Labor Headquarters. Phones: Office, Sey. 7495; Residence, High. 5679X.

Building Trades Council, Vancouver—Meets second and fourth Tuesday in Hall 315, Labor Headquarters. President, E. H. Morrison; secretary-treasurer, W. Page, Room 301, Labor Headquarters. Phone Sey. 7495.

Barbers' Journeyman International Union of America—Local 120, meets second and fourth Tuesdays in each month, in Hall No. 3, Labor Headquarters. President, Fred Dawe; Sec.-Treas., C. E. Herrett. Office, 304 Labor Headquarters.

Bookbinders' Local No. 105, Int. Brotherhood—Meets second Tuesday in month at Professional and Business Woman's Club, Empire Bldg., 603 Hastings W. President, Mrs. Harvey, 4487 Quebec; Secretary, Fred Kinsella, 3131 Portland St., New Westminster.

Bricklayers and Masons International Union No. 1—Room 309, Labor Headquarters. Meets second and fourth Wednesday, in Hall No. 3. President, J. C. Greenwood, Phone Bay. 8047-Y; Secretary, W. S. Dagnall, 1244 East 20th, Phone Fair. 845-R; Fin. Sec., Albert Wright, 4128 Knight Road, Phone Fair. 2005-R.

Camp and Mill Workers' Federal Labor Union No. 31—Vancouver and vicinity, meets every second Wednesday at 8 p.m., at 544 Powell Street E. President, H. Miyazawa; Secretary, K. Tsuyuki.

City Hall Employees' Association—Meets first Wednesday of each month at 195 East Pender St. at 8 p.m. President, E. Mitten; Treasurer and Business Agent, W. J. Scribbins, 3208 Pender St. E.; Secretary, J. Tarbuck, 3517 West 25th.

Civic Employees' Union, Local 28—Meets first and third Fridays in the month at 251½ Hastings East, at 8 p.m. President, Jack Wood, 4571 Fraser Street; Secretary-Treasurer, George Harrison, 3427 Triumph Street.

Electrical Workers, Local 213, International Brotherhood—Meets first and third Monday, at 8 p.m., at Labor Headquarters. President, D. McDougal; Business Manager, E. H. Morrison. Office, 201 Labor Headquarters. Phone Sey. 3510.

Fire Fighters, No. 18, International Association of—Meets every month at call of President at 251½ Hastings E. President, N. McDonald, 1136 McLean Drive; Financial Secretary, C. A. Watson, 1624 East 8th Avenue.

The Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Marine Cooks and Stewards.—Local 28, Suite 39, 413 Granville St., meets second Monday each month at 3 p.m., and last Monday at 9 p.m. President, J. R. Kitts; Secretary-Treasurer and Business Agent, Harry Wood. Phone Seymour 125.

Machinists' Local 692—President, Thos. Sills, 1352 Burrard St.; Secretary, P. R. Bengough. Office, Room 200, Labor Headquarters. Meets on second and fourth Tuesdays in Hall 313.

Milk Wagon Drivers and Dairy Employees, Local 464—Office: 308 Labor Headquarters. Meets second and fourth Fridays in Hall No. 1. President, J. Paterson; Secretary-Treasurer, Birt Showler, 2841 Triumph. Phone High. 5327.

Motion Picture Projectionists' Union, Local 348, of I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O.—11:30 p.m., first Friday in month, in Hall No. 3 Labor Headquarters. President, Locksley Clark; Secretary, J. C. Richards, Box 345, Phone Douglas 1574-R; Business Agent, J. R. Foster, Phone Trinity 5708.

Musicians' Mutual Protective Union, Local 145, A. F. of M.—Meets at the G.W.V.A. Auditorium, second Sunday at 10 a.m. President, J. Bowyer; General Secretary, W. Couling; Organizer, F. Fletcher. Office, Suite 307-319 West Pender. Phone Douglas 2290.

Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, Local 138—Meets second and fourth Thursdays at Hall No. 3. President, A. B. Hodge; Rec. Secretary, A. E. Varah, 1442 Clark Drive; Financial Secretary, Ed Smith. Office: Room 313, Labor Headquarters. Phone Sey. 3609.

Pile Drivers, Bridge, Wharf and Dock Builders, Local No. 2404—Meets every Friday night at 8 o'clock in 122 Hastings St. W. President, A. E. Jones; Jas. Thomson, Secretary, P. O. Box 320. Phone Sey. 7874.

Plumbers and Steamfitters, No. 170, International Association—Meets every second and fourth Friday in Hall No. 2. President, Val Pearson, 787 East 52nd; Financial Secretary and Business Agent, W. Watt, 305-7 Labor.

Printing Pressmen and Assistants, Local No. 69—Meets every second Tuesday in the month at 8 p.m. in Hall No. 2, Labor Headquarters. President W. W. Quigley, 2829 W. Broadway; Secretary, Thos. S. Ezart, 1307 East Thirty-eighth.

Railway Carmen of America, Lodge No. 58—Meets first and third Friday in month at Labor Headquarters. President, A. S. Ross, 5806 Sophia Street; Rec. Secretary, J. D. Valliamy, 2215 West 15th.

Street and Electric Railway Employees, Pioneer Division No. 101—Meets K. P. Hall, 8th and Kingsway, first and third Mondays at 10:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. President, J. E. Smith; Recording Secretary, J. Price; Financial Secretary and Business Agent, H. W. Speed. Office: Corner Prior and Main streets. Phone Sey. 5000.

Sheet Metal Workers' Association, Local Union No. 280—Meets second and fourth Thursdays in Hall No. 3. President, Thos. Burke; Business Agent and Secretary, D. MacPherson, 308 Labor Headquarters.

Taxi, Stage and Bus Drivers, Local 151—Meets second Monday at 8 p.m. and second Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. President, C. Kontze. Office, 306 Labor Headquarters; Phone, Sey. 7495.

Tailors' Journeymen Union of America, Local No. 178—Meetings held second Monday, each month, 8 p.m. Executive meets fourth Monday of every month in Labor Headquarters. President, Colin McDonald; Secretary, W. W. Hocken, 1582 13th Ave. E.; Financial Secretary, H. Nordlund, 1930 12th Ave. E.

Theatrical Stage Employees' Union, Local 118 of the I.A.T.C.E. & M.P.M.O. Meets second Tuesday in Labor Headquarters at 9:30 a.m. President, Geo. W. Allen; Recording Secretary, H. Pearson; Business Agent, Syd. Summers, address, P. O. Box 711.

Typographical Union, No. 226—President, C. S. Campbell; Vice-President, T. A. Holland; Secretary-Treasurer, R. H. Neelands, 300-2 Labor Headquarters. Meets last Sunday of each month at 2 p.m., in Hall No. 1, Labor Headquarters.

Union Label Trades Council meets in Hall No. 4, Labor Headquarters, 529 Beatty Street, second and fourth Thursdays in each month at 8 o'clock. President, Colin McDonald, 2834 St. George Street, Phone Fair. 3317-Y. Secretary, Mollie Dolk, 1587 Fifth Avenue East. Phone High. 477-Y.

St. Louis.—About 400 drivers of Yellow and Red taxis struck this week when the companies demanded wage cuts and the abolishment of various rights enjoyed by the workers.

Prince Rupert Trades & Labor Council

MEETS second Thursday in each month. President, S. D. McDonald, Box 268. Secretary, Frank Derry, Box 498, Prince Rupert, B.C.

NOTARY PUBLIC
P. R. BENGOUGH
Secretary Trades & Labor Council
Room 200—531 Beatty Street
Phones: Sey. 7495-6279

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The Labor Statesman

Published last Thursday in month, at Labor Headquarters, Vancouver, B. C.

Owned by the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council.

H. W. Watts, Man. Editor.

PRESS COMMITTEE:

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UNION LABEL TRADES COUNCIL — UNION PRINTING — VANCOUVER, B.C. — 14

Vancouver, Canada, March, 1932

GOVERNMENT ON RAMPAGE

It seems that the Provincial Government has made up its mind to go on another financial rampage. Indications are that they cannot conceive of any other manner to relieve their predicament than to increase the taxes on the wages of the remnant who are working. Then they propose to greatly reduce the grants to cities and municipalities so that these communities will have to increase property and other taxes in order to meet their obligations. By the time this tax rampage gets working good we will only be able to avoid them by becoming bankerteers, or living in a hollow tree and eating roots.

There is enough wealth going out of this province in the shape of timber, pulp, mineral and power company coupons to meet the most extravagant needs of the Government, but instead of taking over these resources and operating them in the interest of the citizens, our Government proposes to meet its expenses by passing round the plate to the wage workers.

And now that the wage taxing stunt appears to have been made permanent we must expect tax increases every year, for we find that the wages having been slashed in every direction, the income from this source will naturally be below that anticipated, therefore a further increase will have to be made next year. And the bankers having insisted on 1½ per cent increase in their interest rate on the loans made to the Government, we will all have to dig a little deeper to meet the demand notes of the banks.

This condition of affairs cannot last very much longer, and there is every indication that governments are hastening to a crash. When 6000 men, women and children will march behind red flags and 30,000 congregate in a square to listen to radical speeches, as they did in Vancouver this week, it is a sign that the people are getting restless, and it should be carefully noted that military forces have not always stopped revolutions, and sections like 98 of the Criminal Code have not stopped hungry appetites. People and governments the world over are getting panicky and there is no let-up in the increasing unemployment problem, and the distress that goes with it.

Canada's $200,000,000 loan, which was raised to allegedly relieve the situation, has not had the slightest effect upon conditions, unless it has been to aggravate them. In Great Britain the National Government was going to revive conditions with a tariff, but latest reports show that the unemployed increased by 218,000 in January to nearly 3,000,000. In Germany the unemployed increased in January by 200,000 to 6,041,000. In France, with no unemployed this time last year, it has leaped up to close upon 2,000,000 and another million on part time. In the United States, where a two billion dollar dole to the banks, railroads, mortgage companies and similar institutions was to have averted a panic, we find that unemployment has become so bad and conditions so ripe for disorder that the National Guard has been issued a 104-page pamphlet giving them special instructions how to combat mobs. It is entitled "Emergency Plans for Domestic Disturbances." That and taxes appear to be the only ideas that the powers-that-be can devise to combat the distress in their midst.

And yet the mobs that will have to be met will not be made up of Communists or Socialists or Fascists. It was not a mob of these who attacked Premier Sir Richard Squires of Newfoundland last month, after failing to increase the relief allowances of the unemployed. It was made up of former service men, former hard working fishermen, farmers and business men. They fought their way past the police into the parliament building and grabbed Sir Richard by the scruff of the neck and the seat of his trousers and told him he would be dropped from a third-story window unless he issued at once an order that food be distributed.

The Prime Minister attempted to reason with the demonstrators, but was cut short by a blow in the face.

After Sir Richard had phoned to the relief depot instructions for increased allowances the crowd departed.

It was not so very many years ago that United Mine Workers on Vancouver Island threatened to invade the Parliament Buildings and throw the members into the harbor if they did not put through some coal mine regulations. The regulations went into effect.

The people in our midst, who are now in dire distress, are made up of former service men, former hard working thrifty men, former seemingly well established business men. They are now seeking groceries from the relief department and money from their friends. Their thoughts and expressions cannot always be subdued by a display of military force, nor of order-in-councils such as section 98. This depression has driven many business men to suicide and to the insane asylum, right here in Vancouver, but the worker, who is more used to the struggle for existence, can stand the strain a little better, but grows more bitter as the struggle grows in intensity, and therein lies the danger, or the hope, whatever you may call it, of overturning present institutions and building up a society where human needs will take the place of property rights.

The temper of the unemployed in Great Britain is increasing, and Ramsay MacDonald and his Nationalists are meeting with bitter opposition. Political forces are again being split and the membership campaign of the Labor Party for a "million new members" is meeting with striking success. The high temporary duties may have had a little to do with the slight trade stimulation in the latter part of last year, but that appears to have worn off, for we are informed that the number of unemployed increased by over 218,000 in January.

Over in Germany the forthcoming elections are holding back the crisis. But which ever side wins, the breech will become wider and open conflict or "domestic disturbances" will take place. Hitlerism cannot provide work for the six million jobless in the face of the economic chaos in industry. Failures in the business world are tremendous and unemployment has increased by two million since the moratorium. What a lot of good that did? And what can Bruening do? He has tried many paliatives, but the bankers and Hitlerites have prevented him from becoming too radical. And now the Hitlerites seem headed for power and Germany for a bust-up shortly afterwards.

And the smaller nations in Europe are in like condition. The French peasant is tightening his belt; in Hungarian cities thousands are scavenging and pilfering; in Austria factories are closed and machinery dismantled; in Italy trade has been cut completely in half in one year; in Spain the government is trying desperately to get a Socialist program into operation, but Communist and Anarchist are disturbing the working out of this plan.

In America the situation is not the least bit better. The number of unemployed is estimated from 8,000,000 to 15,000,000. In New York state alone there are 1,500,000, and private charities are spending $6,000,000 per month on relief in New York city alone. In two months time their resources will be at an end unless the government steps in. But Senator Fess says it will make bums out of the unemployed if the government steps in and there are enough Republican and Democratic tories to support him. There are a million unemployed in Pennsylvania, over a million in Illinois, and smaller numbers in every other state in the Union. Bankrupts are tremendous and although some 2500 banks have failed during the past year we note that the big national banks, of which there are about 200, have paid their regular dividends averaging 12.52 per cent of their entire capital, just as the banks in Canada have done. All the national banks in Canada paid their 12 per cent and up to 14 per cent. Gross earnings of the United States banks for the year was 35 per cent on their capital, surplus and undivided profits, and yet Uncle Sam proposes to dole out $500,000,000 to these banks in exchange for their frozen assets. It has been suggested that this money will also be used by the 200 big banks to freeze the remaining small banks out of the business. If they succeed it will be time for the nationalization of the banks, but we don't notice much sentiment in that direction, for despite all the terrible conditions under which the people are living there does not seem to be very much intelligent progress towards a sane system of society. The Socialist movement in the United States is small, just as it is in Canada, hence there is more likely to be misdirected action and bloodshed than a quiet transition. The farmers in many states are waking up, just as they are in Alberta and Saskatchewan, but they are still very far away from a planned and intelligent intention to capture the powers of the state and usher in a co-operative commonwealth.

I. L. P. Notes

CENTRE BRANCH

Our usual propaganda activities began Sunday evening with W. W. Lefeaux as the speaker. He took as his theme "What Shall We Do?" The whole trend of his speech was along the Marxian analysis of the capitalist machine and its inability to be controlled by the ruling interests. Questions and discussion brought a profitable night to those who attended.

Wednesday night we had Mrs. Lorimer, whose subject, "Woman and the Social Question," was dealt with in a reasoning and able manner. The attendance was disappointing to all concerned, but the argument and debate of those who were there proved her subject matter very much to the point.

The following Sunday we had R. Skinner dealing with "Prosperity's Going and Coming Around the Corner." The lively discussion that followed showed the seeds of Socialism were prosperous anyhow.

The next speaker was our old stalwart, J. A. McDonald, giving us a lead on "Their Machines and Our Lives." He analyzed the process the machines have taken from the past, reaching up to their present highly developed and organized form. The controlling of the machine and the supervising of the great mass of wealth produced and distributed must bring a better understanding of the ideology of a Socialist system.

On Wednesday last we had David Lawley, the organizer for the Federation of the Blind." He delivered a vigorous speech on a "square deal for the blind." In his subject matter, Mr. Lawley showed that he not only understood the situation as it affects the Canadian blind worker, but from the facts he submitted to his audience, he made it quite plain that he realized the problems affecting other blind workers in other lands. The questions submitted to him by those present brought forth clear and instructive information on the work performed by his organization. He was one of a delegation that left that night for Victoria to interview the Government regarding measures desired to assist the blind. The branch gave him their ardent support and hoped his mission would be successful.

Sunday, February 28th, Alderman Harry Anderson of North Vancouver. Mr. Anderson dealt in a very able manner with the declining phases of capitalism, and then gave a resume of the building of a Socialist system. Numerous questions from different angles were easily dealt with. Discussion was of a lively nature.

The speaker for February 28th will be Comrade Jack Davies. His subject being "A Socialist Looks at History." —S. H.

WHIST AND ENTERTAINMENT

Vancouver Centre Branch will hold a whist drive and entertainment in the Business and Professional Women's Club Rooms, Empire Building, 603 West Hastings, on Friday evening, March 4th, at 8 p.m. There will be a number of valuable prizes, refreshments, etc. Admission 25c.

EVOLUTION OR REVOLUTION

Father Cox, who led 10,000 Pennsylvania jobless to Washington recently, says:

"All civilizations have faced the same choice, evolution or revolution." Revolution comes when the rulers don't know enough soon enough.

HOME GAS MADE IN B.C.
You can buy no better

Awarded the coveted certificate of purity, merit and quality by the Institute of Hygiene, London.

Rhum Negrita

REP. QUART $4.20

Famed the world over as "Old Nick Rum"

For sale at Vendors, or direct from the Liquor Centre Board, Mail Order Department, Victoria, B. C.

12-B

This advertisement is not published or displayed by the Liquor Control Board or by the Government of British Columbia.

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WHATEVER the anniversary—wedding, birthday, Easter, Mother's Day—the long-distance telephone is ready to carry your greetings to far-away friends or dear ones.

How pleased they will be to hear your voice over the telephone! And how delighted you will be, too!

The spoken word carries a warmness and sincerity that no written or printed message can convey.

Use the long-distance telephone to remember that anniversary.

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Your Money's Worth or Your Money Back!
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GOOD GLASSES
Prices You Can Afford To Pay!
PITMAN OPTICAL HOUSE
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615 HASTINGS W. SEY. 1071

Dodson Hotel
"A COOL PARLOR"
23 Hastings Street East
R. Wishart - Props. - W. Stirling
(Late of Central Hotel)

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AUTO WRECKING CO.
BAYVIEW 5411
New and Second-hand Auto and Truck Parts for All Cars and Trucks
Vancouver, B. C.

Independent Undertaking
CO. LTD.
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THE ESTHER BAKERY
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PRINTERS BEAT SLASH AFTER LONG LOCKOUT

Alameda, Calif.—Members of the Typograpihcal Union, locked out eight months ago by the Alameda Times-Star, when they refused to take a wage cut, have won a victory and are back on the job again with union conditions intact.

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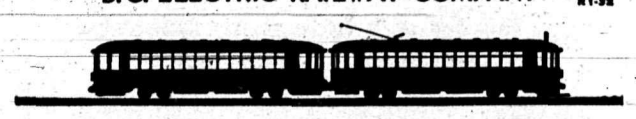

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Pacific Milk

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A Health Cookie Simply Delicious!

DAD'S COOKIE COMPANY
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We Give Liberal Trade-in Allowances.

MAIN RADIO SHOP
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THE SEAL OF SATISFACTION IN QUALITY AND QUANTITY
HIGH 498

Union Men!

—for a quick lunch or snack after the meeting, try

Art's Lunch

Next Lotus Hotel, 445 Abbott St.

OUR New Furniture Store IS WORTH VISITING

William Worrall

440 SEYMOUR STREET

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Bowl at the

Pender Alleys

5 and 10 Pins

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Phone for Reservations—Sey. 2073-O

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One Price $27.00 To Measure

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Gold Wheat Bread

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187 HASTINGS STREET EAST
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938 Pender St. W., Vancouver, B.C.

PHONE SEY. 2800

Star Steam Laundry CO. LTD.

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Also Pan-Co-Vesta Dry Cleaners
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Demand VAN BROS.'

Pure Apple Cider

LIONS GINGER ALE or ORANGE KIST

The only Union Soft Drink Firm in Vancouver!

Phone: High. 90 1065 Vernon Dr.

Buy Lang's HAND MADE WORK BOOTS at $4.50

They are Guaranteed Solid Leather Throughout

Can be obtained at M. Lang & Co 535 MAIN ST.

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DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC

142 HASTINGS WEST SEY. 1780

ALBERTA ROOMS Phone: Sey. 435

Modern, Convenient—The Best for Less!

655 ROBSON, CORNER GRANVILLE

The Open Road

AFOOT WITH JACK LOGIE

Recently I received an invitation to attend the annual re-union of the Old-timers of Summerland, and am giving below my reply:

In reply to your kindly invitation to attend the Old-timers' Re-union, I am sorry to say that as the walking is bad at present I will be unable to be with you on this festive occasion.

You say that if I cannot come in person to join in the festivities and to greet my old friends that you would appreciate some message, preferably in a reminiscent vein. Well, here it is, and, although at past gatherings I may have contributed in some measure to the comedy of the program, this time I would crave your indulgence if I write in a more serious mood.

I am not so terribly ancient and yet it seems only yesterday since I used to watch the long lines of Red River carts winding their way slowly across the Prairie trails and creaking in a way which only those who have heard them can appreciate. Now if you see a cloud of dust approaching from the Western horizon you know that it is only a Ford, which makes a little less noise but smells even worse.

I have seen the prairie chickens dance in the spring-time and the sky darkened with countless thousands of wild geese. Now the realm of the wild goose has been invaded and his honk drowned by the drone of the airplane.

From Red River cart to the high-powered automobile and from the wild goose to the airplane seems but a short step and yet it marks an entire phase in human evolution. Many of us here present have witnessed in Western Canada the birth, growth and decay of that economic system which we define as capitalism. I expect to participate in its funeral, which is closer around the corner than that mythical prosperity we have been promised so often.

In pioneer days our struggle was with nature, and between grasshoppers, rabbits and floods, it managed to become fairly strenuous at times. When the harvest was bountiful, however, we all ate, but now a plenteous harvest is a calamity, and we starve in the midst of abundance. As we watched railroads being built and new settlers pouring in we did not anticipate that in a few short years we would be borrowing money on the credit of our grandchildren so that we might buy sufficient of the surplus which we have produced in order to keep our workers from starving to death.

I recall that it is just a little over *twenty-five years since* I spoke on every platform in the valley from Mara to Keremeos, attempting in my feeble way to point out that our economic system was on the wrong track and must inevitably collapse sooner or later. You did not believe me then, and possibly you will not believe me now, but at least you must admit that at present we are not confronted by a theory but by a condition, a condition under which we all suffer and which, in its essence, is so silly that it is an insult to our intelligence.

Our economic system is doomed and we might as well realize that fact and let it go. All the economic nostrums and political palliatives in the world cannot save it, and I would urge with all the force at my command that, in order to avoid further suffering and increasing misery, which are quite unnecessary, that we set out at once with resolution and courage to establish a new condition of society based on social justice *and human brotherhood.*

These are indeed the times that try men's souls but I cannot believe that the pioneer spirit is dead or that we lack sufficient intelligence to understand the new social forces which are coming into being or the resolution to bring them into effect. This is your country and mine, and those of us who know most about the past must realize very fully the utter failure of present conditions.

"My mariners, Souls that have toil'd, and wrought, and thought with me—
That ever with a frolic welcome took the thunder and the sunshine, and opposed free hearts, free foreheads—
You and I are old;
Old age hath yet his honor and his toil;
Death closes all; but something ere the end,
Some work of noble note, may yet be done,
Not unbecoming men that strove with Gods.

The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks:
The long day wanes: the slow moon climbs: the deep
Moans 'round with many voices. Come, my friends,
'Tis not too late to seek a newer world.
Push off, and sitting well in order smite
The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths
Of all the western stars, until I die.

It may be that the gulfs will wash us down;
It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles,
And see the great Achilles, whom we knew.
Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are:
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield."

This is my message and, with all good wishes to my many friends in the Old-timers' Association, I remain, as ever,

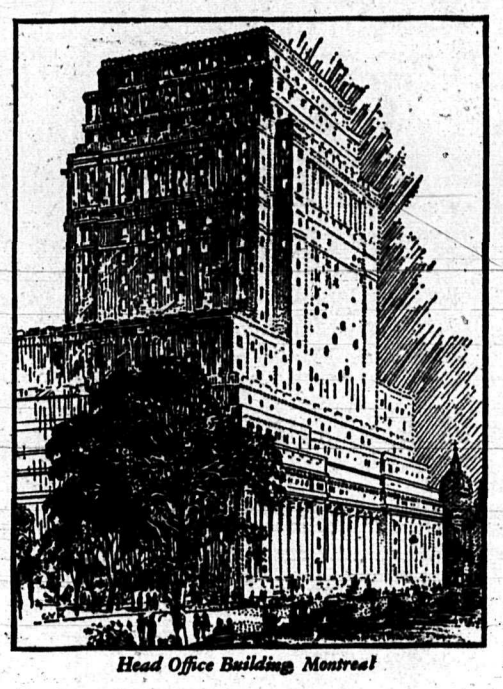
Yours,

Nowadays the unemployed call hot dogs "Bennett turkeys."

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

PROGRESS
Assurance in Force

1871 $404,000
1881 $5,010,000
1891 $19,436,000
1901 $62,400,000
1911 $164,572,000
1921 $536,718,000
1931 $3,051,077,000



Head Office Building, Montreal

STRENGTH
Assets

1871 $63,000
1881 $536,000
1891 $2,885,000
1901 $11,773,000
1911 $43,900,000
1921 $129,372,000
1931 $624,804,000

STATEMENT FOR 1931

ASSURANCES IN FORCE (net)	$3,051,077,000
NEW ASSURANCES PAID FOR (net)	527,939,000
TOTAL INCOME (net)	197,140,000
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	136,509,000
PAYMENTS TO POLICYHOLDERS AND BENEFICIARIES IN 1931	93,235,000
PAYMENTS TO POLICYHOLDERS AND BENEFICIARIES SINCE ORGANIZATION	594,185,000
SURPLUS AND CONTINGENCY RESERVE	21,126,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES (including paid up Capital Stock)	603,678,000
ASSETS, AT DECEMBER 31st, 1931	624,804,000

THE YEAR'S BUSINESS REVIEWED

". . . I think you will agree with me that for a year such as that through which we have just passed the showing is a remarkably fine one.

"New assurances of over $527,000,000, and a total in force exceeding $3,000,000,000, are figures so great as to need no emphasis.

"The distribution of our new business is interesting. Canada contributed $101,000,000, United States $291,000,000, Great Britain $50,000,000, and the rest of the world $85,000,000.

"Our mortality experience has been even more favourable than that of last year, the claims being but 54.3 per cent. of the expected, against 57.6 per cent. in 1930.

"Since business was commenced in 1871 we have paid out in benefits $594,000,000. Last year alone our payments were $93,000,000, an amount exceeding the total assurances written in 1922. We may well rejoice over the magnitude and importance of the social service which the Company is performing.

"During the past year life assurance has been tested as perhaps never before, and it has withstood the trial triumphantly. So far as I am aware not one life company on the continent has had to close its doors, a wonderful record. In Canada we can claim with pride that even since Confederation not one Dominion licensed company has ever failed.

"It will be noticed that in addition to the surplus of $16,000,000 over all liabilities and capital stock, we have a contingency reserve of $4,700,000 to provide for possible shrinkage in mortgages and other real estate investments. Our reserves have been calculated on the same strong basis as last year. Although our investments payable in American currency greatly exceed our liabilities in that currency, we have treated both as on a par, taking no credit for the premium on American funds. Our liabilities under contracts in other currencies also are included at a total greater than required at the prevailing rates of exchange.

"Our holdings of stocks have been valued on the basis laid down by the Dominion Department of Insurance, which is practically the same as that adopted for all companies by the National Convention of Insurance Commissioners of the United States.

"In new investments we have favoured high grade bonds, the yield on which is now very attractive. Our purchases of Canadian Government bonds during the year amounted to $23,000,000.

"The profits paid or allotted to policyholders amounted to over $26,000,000, or over 20 per cent. of the total annual premium income.

"In the light of these figures, the report is indeed an excellent one.

"And what of the future? No one believes that the depression will last for ever. It is impossible to say just when the turn will come, but with the vast natural resources of this continent, and the brains, energy, and actual wealth of its people, business recovery is inevitable. When prosperity does return no company will share in its benefits in greater measure than our own."

—From the President's Address at the Annual Meeting.

SIXTY-ONE YEARS OF SERVICE

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

Hot From the Oven

We are glad to report that Bro. Hartley is now well and back to work, after suffering from a blood-poisoned hand, sustained while working in the McGavin Bakery. Brother Steele is now off our sick list and back on the old job at the Golden Rule Bakery, feeling much better than he has been this last week or two. These boys have both received sick benefits by keeping their dues paid up; so you see it pays to keep in good standing for your own protection, and those immediately depending on you.

A card of thanks was recently received from W. R. Gerrie, Toronto, Ont., brother of the late R. L. Gerrie, who recently passed away to the Great Beyond. The late R. L. Gerrie was a member of Bakers' Union 468.

Just a Reminder

To All Friends of the Bakers' Union:

The following shops are still unfair to organized labor and are not entitled to your patronage. Boost the Union Label at all times and you will not patronize the firms of the 4X Bakery and Stevensons.

Be a booster for Vancouver, and demand the Union Label on all your bakery products. It protects both the producer and consumer. It has been brought to the notice of the Bakers' Union Secretary this last week that the owner of one of the bakery firms in this city went around and asked all his employees to work for nothing so that he could sell bread to the public at 3c per loaf. How long this is going to be tolerated by the individuals working *in this shop I don't know.* And it is at this opportunity that the Bakers' Union request all its friends to patronize nothing but Union Label bakery products in your district, and if you cannot get Union made bakery products in your neighborhood, phone Sey. 3349 and the information you desire will be gladly given.

Great national movements never attain maturity in a day or a year. Their progress is avalanche-like, gradual, steady, and often imperceptible, "without haste yet without rest," like the march of the stars.—W. H. Dawson.

RADIO SERVICE

When you want it—
At a price you'll like

REPAIRS TO ALL MAKES

Day Service: Trinity 2723
Night Service: Sey. 2649-X

RICHARDSON & HOWARD

928 Pender St. W. Balkite Specialists

RED STAR DRUG STORE

"The Mail Order Druggist"

We Make a Special Effort to Get Goods Out by First Mail After Receipt of Your Order.

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Phone N. V. 134
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AIRPLANE PILOTS STRIKE

Chicago.—A demand of the Century Air Lines that its airplane pilots accept a drastic wage slash and sign "yellow dog" contracts has resulted in the first strike in the history of American aerial transportation.

The walkout tied up plane service between Chicago and Cleveland and Toledo and Detroit. The 23 flyers affected are members of the newly-organized International Air Line Pilots' Association, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

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Alberta Farmers Have Radical Programme

Determinedly grappling with the problem of improving present agricultural conditions, more than 500 delegates representing the 18,000 members of the United Farmers of Alberta recently adopted a program of social reform, having as its ultimate objective the creation of a co-operative commonwealth in which the producer will enjoy the fruits of his labor, and in which financial interests will be shorn of undue privilege.

When the four-day annual convention drew to its close on January 22nd, resolutions of far-reaching import (many of them a part of the Saskatchewan organized farmers' new economic policy) had been discussed and dealt with to the satisfaction of a majority of the delegates present.

One resolution passed may result in farmers in Western Canada presenting a united front in the next general election. Delegates instructed the U. F. A. executive to get in touch with other farmer groups in the West with a view to formulating a joint political policy.

Public Ownership

The convention favored public ownership of land, demanded that no more public land be alienated either by homestead or sale and asked that land be let on long term leases for actual use only. Confiscation or purchase of privately owned land was not included in the resolution, but those introducing it declared that the ultimate objective of their policy was ownership of all land by the state.

National Money System

The existing financial system received nothing but the strongest condemnation from the delegates. A resolution asking for complete nationalization of the monetary system and the extension of credit to industry on a basis of cost, not profit, received strong support. Members of the U. F. A. group in the house of commons were urged to continue their battle for credit reform.

Favor Deflation

Deflation of currency was also favored as a means of increasing the sale of farm products. Suggestion that the Government should issue new paper money for unemployment relief works instead of borrowing money and paynig interest to the "great financial powers" was endorsed.

Amendment of the Bank Act to provide a penalty for any bank charging more than 7 per cent was asked.

Public ownership of all sources of electric power was endorsed. The Government was asked not to alienate any more power sites, and to take steps to recover those now in private hands.

Co-operative Commonwealth

On the final day of the convention delegates made a marked departure from the organization's long maintained policy of open meetings and went into secret session to discuss their ideal of a co-operative commonwealth, which in a declaration prepared by the U. F. A. executive was defined in part as "a community freed from the domination of irresponsible financial and economic power, in which all social means of production and distribution, including land, are socially owned and controlled either by voluntarily organized groups of producers and consumers, or, in the case of major public services and utilities, can be conducted most efficiently when owned in common by public corporations responsible to the peoples' elected representative."

Before disbanding, delegates took a final shot at present conditions by calling for a law to permit municipal councils to sell caskets for $30.

"Undertakers are overtaking themselves in their charges," said one delegate, and "this is a good resolution to bring up in the dying hours of the convention," commented another.

Lend Me Your Eyes!

(By BILL)

To Victoria.

Friend Tolmie.

Just Dreams.

Was It Cold?

After several letters had been sent to the Premier in Victoria, a telephone message came from the Premier's secretary, stating that, in accordance with the request, the Premier and his cabinet would be pleased to meet the Labor delegation on Tuesday morning at 11 a.m.

Along with the other two delegates I took the C. P. R. midnight boat bound for Victoria. We were shown to our cabin, where, for the next hour, we conferred together and outlined our plans, having had experience in meeting the Conservative government on previous occasions and trying to convince them of the great necessity of legislation and laws beneficial to the workers, such as Workmen's Compensation, unemployment insurance, minimum wage, etc. We took into consideration the fact that since the Conservative government had been in power in Victoria not one piece of labor legislation or anything that would benefit the worker had been placed on the statute books. However, Mac, who is always hopeful, and much like Macober, claimed that was one reason why he felt sure we were going to be successful. Feeling a bit tired I suggested that we go to bed. Mac, however, had different ideas; he claimed he could not sleep on an empty stomach, so to satisfy him we adjourned to the dining room. One thing I must say about the C. P. R. boats, they sure give you a swell meal, and all you can eat and just one price. I had three helpings of fish and sure enjoyed the big meal at Mac's expense. We returned to our cabin and as we had top and bottom bunks, Mac tossed a coin, and as usual, I fell heir to the top bunk. However, it was a calm and peaceful night, and I had an enjoyable and sound slumber.

When we entered the parliament buildings, we met Billie Dick, Vancouver member, who took us to his room and asked us to wait until he could acquaint the Premier of our presence. After he returned he led us into the presence of the Premier and his cabinet. Mr. Dick started to introduce each of us, but was stopped by the Premier, who waved him aside and shook each of us heartily by the hand and said there was no need for any introduction as he knew each of the honorable gentlemen. He told us to be seated and passed around a box of cigars.

As far as I can recollect, these were the statements given to us by the Premier. He said: Gentlemen and representatives of Labor, your vocation is a worthy one, and to begin with I want you to feel thoroughly at home with us. I have a number of surprises for you today, and I trust the information which I am about to give you will meet with your approval. I note that each of you have a number of typewritten sheets in your hand, but it will be unnecessary for you gentlemen to again describe to me and my cabinet the legislation which you desire. As a matter of fact I have given labor legislation a very deep study during the last few months; in fact, I have had many sleepless nights on these questions, and, although the Conservative Government, as you know, has never granted any legislation beneficial to the workers, what we are about to do, I am sure, will make up for all our past transgressions.

I may state that a number of radical changes will take place in the Compensation Act. The amount will be increased to 80 per cent of the workmen's wage, and the minimum will not be less than $5 per day. All cases of hernia will be payable, and all permanent disability cases will be paid the full wages until we find them suitable employment. All the logger employers of labor will be assessed far more than what they have been paying in the past, as they have been a continual source of nuisance ever since the act came into force.

The Premier at this time seemed to be very excited and said, Gentlemen, are you aware that during the last five years 19,500 workers in the logging industry have been injured and maimed, and 350 have been killed? The logging industry has become a slaughter house for the workers; no thought is given to life or limb. What the employers think of is speed and profit. Of course, a great number of these workers are Bohunks, Slavs, etc., who can't talk the English language, and who have been enticed into British Columbia by the lumber barons, who were looking for cheap labor, and I claim if they had used our own Canadian experienced workmen in the lumber industry, they could have avoided 60 per cent of these accidents, and after killing and maiming these workmen, the barons have the audacity to refuse to pay their assessment. They keep a force of paid lawyers here to look after their interests, and they are determined to kill the Compensation Act. In fact, they have the gall to ask for a meeting with this cabinet, but I refuse to have any further dealings with this type of creature. At this stage Mr. Pooley arose to his feet and said, "but Mr. Premier, we can't—," but he got no further, for the Premier silenced him and said Mr. Pooley, I don't want you to interrupt me, and I object to you using the word can't, for you will remember they said we can't tax the workers one per cent, but did we? Yes and made them like it. However, gentlemen, seeing we are on the subject of tax, you will be pleased to know that there will be no tax of any kind on the worker, but instead there will be a very, very heavy tax on all incomes over $5000 per year, and the higher the income the heavier the tax. The Premier at this time asked Mr. Jones, Minister of Finance, if he had the figures regarding the amount of revenue which this income tax would bring the province. Mr. Jones stated that his figures were not completed but there would be more than enough revenue secured to put all the unemployed to work on the many construction jobs contemplated including the building and completion of the P. G. E., etc. The Premier also stated that the work would be done by day labor at the union rate of wages. He next took up the question of health insurance, and being a doctor (veterinary) himself, he knew the great loss due to sickness, and as he had the act all prepared, no further time would be wasted, but the B. C. Health Insurance Act would go into effect at a cost of $2 per year to workers, before the session was ended. In dealing with Old Age Pensions, he stated that he was demanding of the Dominion Government to lower the age limit to 55 ,and raise the allowance to $50 per month.

The Premier at this time remarked that we were not smoking, and insisted that the cigar box be handed around. He then continued, stating that a moratorium would be put into effect, giving the date as the first day of April, 1932, as he realized that so many of the workers were on the eve of losing their homes. He also reminded us that no interest would be allowed to be charged by the mortgage companies during this depression. The Premier at this time looked at his watch and remarked that he had considerable other labor legislation questions to discuss with us; but as it was now 1 p.m. he thought it advisable to adjourn for lunch, and he would consider it a great favor if we would dine along with him. Just at this moment, when we were on the eve of accepting his hospitality, the door opened and in walked Tom Uphill, Labor member from Fernie. The Premier rapped loudly on the desk with his gavel, and we all rose to our feet. The Premier then stated that he had an announcement to make and he hoped the information would be satisfactory to the Labor delegation. He was making a change in his cabinet and was now appointing the Labor member, Mr. Tom Uphill, Minister of Labor for British Columbia. At this time I felt someone pull my coat from behind, but I paid no attention as I was busy watching Tom Uphill, who had turned very white in the face, and looked as if he was going to faint, but again someone from behind pulled me hard and shouted: "Bill, get up!"

I satup in my bunk and looked around, and there was Mac pulling on his pants. "You sure sleep sound, Bill," he remarked. I scratched my head and said "Why in hell did you wake me before the Premier got a chance to finish his report?"

I notice Mr. Butterfield, writer for The Daily Province, has been giving the Rev. Mr. McIntyre, prohibitionist, a severe reprimand for defaming the fair name of our province. According to Rev. McIntyre, we in British Columbia, are all wet, and he has been trying to tell the people in the United States that the liquor system in British Columbia has terrible effects, and gives the impression that we sure are a beer and whiskey sodden race. I don't believe anyone pays much attention to the ravings of McIntyre, and anyhow, Mr. Butterfield has got the sky pilot's goat. Now, what I was going to suggest to Mr. Butterfield was this: that his side-kick, Mr. P. W. Luce, writer on the same page, also needs a reprimand for also defaming the fair name of our province, and I think Mr. Butterfield should take the matter under consideration.

According to this columnist, Mr. P. W. Luce, the climate in Vancouver is terrible, and he passed through a terrible winter. His article begins by stating that he is convinced that our thermometers don't register correct, and although he has passed through some terrible winters in Manitoba, never experienced anything so cold as what we have had in Vancouver. In fact, he struggled through a Prairie blizzard at 65 degrees below zero, but of course it was not as cold as in Vancouver. He stated that we may fool the Eastern people about our climate, but we can't fool any who lived here one winter, and, patient reader, listen to this, he can't get his house warm. Of course, he has a roaring furnace and gets the paint on the walls all blistered and smelling, and the varnish gets soft and gooey. He then puts on an extra overcoat and another woollen muffler and frizzles and smells like a side of bacon. Then has another hot drink, but even then he only gets half warm, and winds up by going to bed with two hot water bottles, and gets up in the morning with a cold in the head.

Now, Mr. P. W. Luce, Daily Province columnist, I don't know much about cold weather because I have lived in Vancouver most of my life, and I hate to advise you in your frozen dilemma. I don't think it advisable for you to send back to the Prairies for your red flannel underwear and German socks; in fact, I think the best thing you can do is move back there yourself, where the thermometers are correct and only register around forty below.

ASSAULT OPENS ON BUILDING TRADES

Indications that a nation-wide attempt is under way to make a drastic cut in building trades wages are shown in despatches from the most strongly unionized points — New York and Chicago.

In both cities the employers' associations have asked the unions to take a 25 per cent wage reduction.

The New York workers have given a flat turn-down to the proposal. While the Chicago unions have not yet taken formal action, it is believed they will take the same stand.

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