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MEAT CUTTERS UNION HOLDING FIRM

SALES OF BURNS AND COMPANY PRODUCTS DROP TREMENDOUSLY

Organised Labor Right Across Canada Is Taking Action—Management Openly in Opposition To Union Labor—Public Enquiry Looms

LOCKED-OUT EMPLOYEES OF BURNS & COMPANY have decided to dig themselves in for the rest of the winter, if necessary, before giving in to the company in its efforts to discriminate against union men and women. There is a stalemate at present, but the next move will be a public enquiry under order-in-council from the Government. Both the Provincial and Federal representatives of the Departments of Labor are working for a settlement of the dispute. The Provincial Government has protested to the local manager and to John Burns, at Calgary, against the importation of men to fill the places of those locked out. This was done at the request of the union.

On December 29th the company discharged twenty-five members of the union, including the entire executive. Prior to that time the company had been compelled to reinstate one man who had been discharged for union activities, but the company apparently did this in order to give the local manager an opportunity to take the matter up with his superiors back east.

Shortly after this, the local manager had seperate interviews with the employees who were officers in the union, and advised them to withdraw from the union. This the men refused to do with the result that they were discharged along with others totalling 25. Following this, the rest of the union men and women, numbering 150, became involved in the walkout in an effort to have the 25 reinstated.

The local manager, who is alleged to have been imported from Saskatoon, began to make a muddle of things the moment he came to the plant. Before he had proper time to get acquainted with the situation he started what might be termed a reign of terrorization among the employees and caused considerable confusion in the plant.

From then on, however, the situation became tense. Employees were brought in to the office in groups and warned about having anything to do with the union. They were told to remove their union buttons and they were transferred to jobs at less pay and which were disagreeable places to work in. The spirit of the men could not be broken however, and they stuck to their union and continued their efforts to build it up.

Built Up Business

Then came the axe. The entire executive of the union, who worked in this plant, were unceremoniously laid along with others, and yet, in its reports to Mr. Adam Bell of the Department of Labor, the local manager denied that he knew these men were officers of the union. Previous to this, however, he had had these men individually in his office, pointing out to them that they were president, vice-president, secretary, etc., of the union, distinctly naming their office and telling them they had to get out of the union.

He informed the Department of Labor that the company had to cut down its staff, yet on the very day the men were fired, an advertisement appeared in the Daily Province advertising for men. Some of the men fired had had twenty years' service with the company, helping to build it up, helping to swell its profits, helping to make it one of the largest businesses of its kind in the country, and because working conditions and wages were not in accordance with a recognised decent standard of living these men and women decided that they had better organize and make an effort to have those conditions remedied.

And now the plant is being picketed by the employees and also stores that are selling Burns & Co. products. Rooms have been fitted up for the strike breakers, some of whom it is alleged, have been imported from other parts of the country.

Efforts made by the Department of Labor to bring the parties together was finally successful after the management continuously had refused to meet a committee of the men, which included some of the men discharged. But no results were obtained at the meeting, the manager refusing to re-employ those who were discharged. Another effort will be made by the Department of Labor to settle the dispute and if this is not possible Mr. Adam Bell has intimated that a public inquiry will be held. The Trades and Labor Council is backing him up in this and an Order-in-Council for a public enquiry may be called at any time. Mr. Harrison of the Federal Department of Labor is in Calgary attempting to get the management to come to terms.

In the meantime the battle is going strong. Sales have gone down tremendously in Vancouver and reports coming in from outside intimate that the boycott is spreading right across Canada. The Vancouver Trades and Labor Council sent word to all Trades Councils in Canada and communications have already been received from a number of these and are taking the action suggested. The Councils replying are: Victoria, Calgary, Windsor, Fort William, Hamilton, Toronto and Three Rivers, Que. In all instances the matter has been referred to the affiliated unions for further action.

Publicity Across Canada

In Vancouver, North Vancouver and New Westminster the sales have fallen off tremendously and there are only a few stores besides the Safeway and Piggly Wiggly who are handling the Burns products. Woodwards and Spencers have responded and the situation of picketing the other stores is well in hand. In most instances the action of refusing to handle the products was instantaneous and was because of the butchers being organized in these stores. Over 90 small stores carry the union card and while the big stores do not yet have an agreement with the union, the buyers and employees have been able to refuse to handle Burns' products.

The Safeway and Piggly Wiggly stores have taken a very definite attitude and are continuing to sell—or try to sell—Burns' products.

These firms operate their own bakery under non-union conditions.

The Australian ships have refused to handle Burns' products because the sailors took that stand and many other boats are doing the same.

The brands carried by Burns & Co. are known as Shamrock Brand, Dominion Brand, Bake Easy Shortening, Carnation and Economy mince meat. These are the products that organized labor is asked to notice and take action upon.

The provincial and federal governments are taking a very good stand in the situation and it looks as though the next move will be definitely for a public enquiry. If this takes place there is not any doubt as to the result being entirely favorable to the employees.

Workers Need $3,600 Per Year, Says Green

(By A.F. of L. News Service)

Washington, D.C. — Employment of every one wishing to work is the fundamental requirement for capacity production in industry and this objective cannot be realized until every family receives an annual income of $3,600, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, said in a statement on the outlook for labor during 1937.

Mr. Green stressed the right of wage earners to have a voice in determining work conditions as elemental in our democratic life and emphasized both the growing acceptance of the principle of trade unionism and the gains in organization during the past twelve months.

Abolition of child labor, shorter hours to provide work for the jobless, higher wages, better living conditions and the enactment of Federal and State social justice legislation were included by the chief of the A.F. of L. in organized labor's program for 1937.

Ontario Council Shuns Burns Products

Replying to a communication sent by the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council to the Trades Councils in all cities in Canada, the Essex County Trades and Labor Council of Windsor, Ontario, informs the Vancouver Council that it had sent the following letter to the Burns Packing Plant in Vancouver. The letter speaks for itself and maybe the same kind of action is being taken by organized labor in other cities:

Burns Company Ltd.,
Packing Plant,
Vancouver, B. C.

Gentlemen:

At our last regular meeting it was brought to our notice that your company were making a vicious and premeditated attack on organized labor in Vancouver, and to show how vicious you could be you discharged a number of your employees who had given your company long and faithful service, just because they were members of the union.

We were surprised that your company would do this, as up to now your products have been considered fair.

We feel loathe to place your company's products on the unfair list, but it is essential under the conditions, and I was instructed to inform all our affiliated unions to do likewise.

From now on unless your company deem it otherwise, the products of the Burns company, Shamrock and Dominion brands, meats, hams, butter and bakeasy shortening, will be placed on the unfair list, and the list sent to all members' wives, informing them of the actions of your company in discharging employees, whose only crime was joining a union.

Asks Abolition of Blacklist System

The blacklist system is still in operation in British Columbia among the lumber industry employers. In fact, the British Columbia District Council of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers says that it is being used to a still larger extent than formerly in order to stop the desire of the workers in that industry to join a union of their own choosing.

The following resolution, which was passed by the District Council at its conference in Nanaimo on January 17th was also endorsed by the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council.

Resolution

Whereas, in view of the prosperity enjoyed by the operators in the lumber industry in the past year, and a still brighter outlook for the future; and

Whereas, the wages of the workers in this industry has not increased in proportion; and

Whereas, the blacklist system is used to a still larger extent in order to stop the desire of the workers to organize into a union of their own chosing; therefore

Be it resolved, that this conference of the B. C. Coast District Council held in Nanaimo, B. C., on the 17th day of January, goes on record demanding the right of collective bargaining and the abolition of the blacklist system, and recommend that the Trades and Labor Councils at Vancouver and Victoria be asked to endorse same—and copies be forwarded to all members of the British Columbia Legislature.

Union Donations To Meat Cutters

N.W. Meat Cutters	$384.00
Street Railwaymen	157.05
Electrical Workers, 213	100.00
Deep Sea Fishermen, Prince Rupert	50.00
Bakery Salesmen	25.00
Milk Salesmen	25.00
Taxi Drivers	25.00
Bakers	25.00
Tailors	25.00
Civic Employees	25.00
Pressmen	25.00
Railway Clerks, 630	25.00
Lumber Workers' Local,	22.50
Carpenters, 452	10.00
Bookbinders	10.00
Sign Painters	5.00
Painters	5.00
Millworkers Local 31	5.00
Van. Waterfront Workers	5.00
Toronto T. & L. C.	5.00

METAL MINERS ACCEPT WAGE INCREASE OFFER

Salt Lake City, Utah—An increase of 25c a day in wages has just been o. y 800 metal miners in the Bingham and Lark districts, southwest of here. This advance followed other victories by 1800 miners in the Park district, east of Salt Lake City, and another 1000 men in the Tintic and Tooele districts.

Building Trade 5-Day Week In April

The Building Trades Council has decided to again put the Five-Day Week into operation and commencing the first Saturday in April there will be no Saturday work. If it is absolutely necessary to do some particular work on a Saturday the wages will be for double time.

During the past few years the five-day week has been passed up because of the slackness in the building trades, but now that the trade has improved the Council thinks the time is opportune to again put it into effect. Local unions are taking up the subject with the object of devising ways and means of putting this into effect and for concerted action commencing on the day suggested.

All trades report conditions fair with the exception of those affected by the weather, such as the New Westminster bridge. When operations start again on the bridge, however, it will probably be on a three-shift basis.

Work on the First Narrows bridge is expected to get under way about the middle of February.

The Council has been assured that practically all work on the Jericho Airport will be made fair to the International Building Trades.

Newspaper reports to the effect that more apprentices were needed because of a shortage of and a thinning out of building trades mechanics came up for discussion and delegates were quite confident that each of the various unions could supply all the men that would be needed in the building industry now and for many years to come. It was pointed out that the apprenticeship system had failed because contractors had found it impossible to keep the apprentices steadily employed during the term of their apprenticeship, and that that condition would still continue to prevail. No contractor was willing to have the time of a mechanic taken up with showing apprentices how to do things, especially during these times when speed is essential in carrying out contracts within the estimates.

Conditions Bad For Theatre Engineers

Engineers 882 reported conditions at Orpheum, Strand, Capital and Dominion (Famous Players) theatres were very bad. They have had three wage cuts and have a split shift system involving eight hours' work over a fifteen-hour period. Council will lend its support toward remedying these conditions.

The engineers in these theatres (two at the Orpheum and one at each of the other theatres) start work at 7 a.m. and are not actually finished until 11 p.m. during which time they are supposed to have put in eight hours of work. Sometimes the showing of a "Preview" will keep them on the job until 2 a.m. and if the next day is not a Sunday they have to be on the job again at 7 a.m.

During the depression the Engineers have had three wage cuts, but in spite of the pickup in attendance, no efforts are being made by the company to restore wages.

Efforts are now being made by the International office to take the matter up with the company's head office, back east. The local tried to take up the matter with the Western representative of the company when he was in Vancouver, but it seemed that he tried to evade the meeting, but he finally promised to make some adjustments. None have been made.

The union wants a signed agreement covering hours of labor and at least a partial restoration of wages. If this is not obtained the local will consider further action necessary.

SOCIAL SECURITY AIDE VISIONS WORK FOR ALL

San Francisco, Calif.—A definite program, intelligently applied, can eliminate the nation's far-flung problem of unemployment, in the opinion of Dr. Louis Bloch, labor economist, who has been named chief statistician for the Federal Social Security Board.

Before leaving here to assume his new duties in Washington, where he will be a working consultant to the Social Security Board's division of research and statistics, Dr. Bloch stated:

"There is so much useful work needing to be done in many fields, such as home building, electrification, sanitation, I see no reason why millions of jobs cannot be created, if only we have the intelligence to know how to proceed."

Says Canada Short By 75,000 Dwellings

Ottawa.—Canada faces a shortage of at least 75,000 dwellings, Tom Moore, former president of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress and a member of the National Employment Commission, told the Canadian Construction Association this week.

To make up the deficiency, Moore contended, would call for a building program of $247,000,000. He urged greater use of the Dominion Housing Act and the granting of financial assistance.

The building industry, Moore said, offered the most promising field for creating jobs.

Four-X Bakery Has Company Union

Bakery salesmen report that since the union launched a drive to get the bakery salesmen of the Four-X Bakery to sign up in the union the company has proceeded to form a company union to which all employees are being induced to join. This company is controlled from back East and when they heard that some of their salesmen were joining the Bakery Salesmen's Union they brought them into the office in groups and informed the drivers that they would not do any business with the International Union and since then a company union has been formed. Grievances—if any—will go through this alleged union to the company, who will then deal with them according to the usual procedure of big corporations.

Just at the present time we are not in a position to say what will be the eventual action of the Bakery Salesmen but there appears to be an interesting event taking place in the very near future.

The bakers in the plant are members of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' Union, Local 468.

More Meat Shops Carry Union Cards

Following are a few more meat shops which have signed up with the Meat Cutters Union since our last report. They display the union card and are worthy of the patronage of members of organized labor living in the same districts.

J. D. Cornett Meat Market, 7468 Fraser; Stone's Meat Market, 8177 Fraser; J. Murch Meat Market, W. Van.; Smith's Meat Market, West Van.; Sunnyside Meat Market, 6966 Fraser; Broadway Meat Market, 1004 West Broadway; Geo. Trimble Meat Market, 653 East 15th Ave.; Oxford Meat Market, 1904 Powell; Templeton Meat Market, 127 Templeton; Kays Meat Market, 4460 W. 10th; G. O. Cornett Meat Market, 3724 East Hastings; Geo. Jackson Meat Market, 2226 West 4th; Angus Meat Market, 1512 Davie; Miller Meat Market, 328 West Broadway.

New Westminster Boom In I.L.A. Agreement

International Longshoremen's Union Local 38,126 is still maintaining a picket line, some 400 strong, along the waterfront. The situation is linked up with that of the rest of the Pacific Coast and the local has been practically assured that no trouble is anticipated in including British Columbia in any agreement that is reached in the strike settlement.

If that is the case, New Westminster, where a new local of the I.L.A. has just been formed, will be the port which will derive the most benefit, if the Shipping Federation in Vancouver and company union still operate the longshore work. Shippers will have to avoid Vancouver in order to be guaranteed that there shall be no delay in shipping or unshipping goods. New Westminster will be the transfer point, so long as the I.L.A. local there carries on under an agreement with the shipping companies.

BRITISH TEXTILE WORKERS GAIN INCREASE IN WAGES

Manchester, Eng.—Collective bargaining between employers and workers won a peaceful victory for nearly 120,000 textile workers in the Lancashire area and avoided what might have proven a serious strike by these workers.

Following two conferences between the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners and the union of spinners and cardroom workers, an eleventh-hour settlement, by which the workers receive a pay increase amounting to one shilling and three halfpence on each pound sterling of their wages, or about 5½ per cent, while workers in the lowest paid brackets won a 10 per cent increase.

Labor Law Is Being Well Enforced

The British Columbia Department of Labor is still taking cases to court for infractions of the Hours of Work Act and the Male and Female Minimum Wage Acts. There still seems to be employers who think that these acts were just scraps of paper which could be ignored just as they formerly were. Various kinds of labor legislation have been on the statute books of British Columbia for many years, but they were never taken very seriously and enforced, until the present regime came into office. During the past few years an ever-increasing number of business people have had to appear in court to answer the charge of violating this labor legislation, and judging by the continued appearance of this class of people, it is still going to keep the Department of Labor busy checking up on these cases, for just as surely as the Department gets lax in these cases, just as surely will these chiselers take advantage of the situation and evade the hours of labor and the Minimum Wage Act. We are pleased to note that the Department of Labor appears to be cognisant of this fact and are continuously on the job.

The following is a police court record of the cases which have been tried since our last report. The amount of the arrears of pay collected is not given, but in some instances they go into three figures and cover many months of arrears, showing clearly that the longer an employer thinks he is getting away with payment of a lower wage than that called for in the Act, the greater will be his agony when he has to finally pay up.

The first list covers the evasion of the Hours of Work Act:

McLennan, McFeely & Prior, Van-Vancouver, excessive hours, fined $15 and costs.

McLennan, McFeely & Prior, Vancouver, failure to post notice, guilty, suspended sentence.

David Hall Sign Co. Ltd., Vancouver, excessive hours, fined $15 and costs.

International Junk Co., Vancouver, excessive hours, fined $10.

International Junk Co. Vancouver, failure to keep correct records, fined $10.

Central Creamery Ltd., Vancouver, excessive hours, suspended sentence, costs $2.50.

Wing Lee Company, Vancouver, failure to post notice, suspended sentence, costs $2.50.

H. Brown & Sons Ltd., Vancouver, failure to keep daily records, fined $10.

Tom Kee Company, Vancouver, failure to post notice, fined $25.

Classic Cleaners, Vancouver, failure to keep records, fined $10, costs $2.50.

Alma Meat Market, Vancouver, failure to produce records, fined $10, costs $2.50.

Mainland Transfer Co. Ltd., Vancouver, excessive hours, fined $25, costs $2.50.

Associated Financial Brokers, Ltd., Vancouver, failure to keep records, fined $10, costs $2.50.

Male Minimum Wage Act

The following cases were for the evasion of the Male Minimum Wage Act.

Calgary Wood & Coal Co., Burnaby, failure to pay minimum wage, suspended sentence, costs $7.50.

Dollar Lumber and Fuel Co., North Vancouver, failure to pay minimum wage, fined $50, costs $3 and pay arrears.

Wing Lee Company, Vancouver, failure to keep records, fined $10.

General Supply Co. Ltd., Vancouver, failure to keep records, fined $25.00.

Archibald & Shepherd Ltd., Vancouver, failure to pay minimum wage, suspended sentence, $2.50 costs and pay arrears.

Female Minimum Wage Act

There was only one case for the Female Minimum Wage Act, which seems to indicate that employers are at last wised up to the fact that this Act cannot be evaded. From dozens of cases a month to one in three months is quite a record, but there may be some cases arise out of the extra employment during the Christmas rush.

The lone case is: Frank Wilbee, Vancouver, failure to pay minimum wage, guilty, costs, $2.50 and pay arrears.

"Funny," said the 'colonial' visitor to England, "that you have so many baby cars over here."

"Funny, nothing," retorted the Englishman, "isn't this the mother country."

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Probe of Labor Spy Looms In Ontario

Toronto, Ont.—An investigation of labor spies and particularly the operations of the Auxiliary Corporation of Canada—a strike-breaking organization—may be undertaken by the Ontario government, following the charges laid by the Trades and Labor Congress when it presented its legislative program to the cabinet.

Attorney-General Arthur Roebuck told the delegation that "an investigation is the most likely thing, but not without concurrence of the government".

The charges were made when President P. M. Draper was urging the government to enact a law that would assure workers the right to join trade unions of their own choosing.

There is a growing tendency among arbitrary employers, President Draper said, to prevent workers from joining trade unions. He alleged "discriminatory and intimidatory practices" were used against workers who were even suspected of membership in the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

Names Offender

Asked for specific information, President Draper named the Auxiliary Corporation of Canada, with headquarters in Toronto.

W. A. Anderson, organizer of the Miners' Union, informed the government that in one week 47 men were fired for being suspected of being members of the union, and that the home of the union's secretary in Kirkland Lake was burglarized, "presumably to get a list of the union members".

The proposed bill submitted by President Draper, makes it unlawful for employers to interfere with the right of workers to form themselves into trade unions and bans "yellow dog" contracts.

President Draper announced that similar legislation would be presented to the several provincial governments. Hon. Norman Rogers, minister of labor, a short time ago, declared that workers must be given the right to organize.

Other Reforms Urged

Other reforms requested include a six-hour day and five-day week, health insurance, reduction in the qualifying age for old age pensions from 70 to 65 years, and placing of the motor transportation industry under the jurisdiction of the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada.

Attorney-General Roebuck informed the delegation that the Ontario government may establish a system of unemployment insurance should the Privy Council declare the Federal law unconstitutional.

Are Relief Camp Conditions Fair?

The single men in the Relief Work Camps are sending in complaints about the conditions in some of those camps and the manner in which wages are paid. We are not able to check up on these reports. Workers have already been evicted from two camps and these will probably not be the last. In the Green Timbers camp it is alleged that one man was picked upon to be the goat which has resulted in a walkout of a large number of the workers. This man was a carpenter and he was put on the job of supervising the construction of some camp buildings. He felt that if he was to be in charge of the work that he should receive higher pay. Not being able to obtain this he asked that he be placed on the bush work. This was done but it is alleged that he was given an axe with a split handle and his hand was getting squeezed in the split. His efforts to obtain another handle proved of no avail and eventually the handle broke. He was charged with deliberately breaking the handle.

After this he was given an old machete (which had been previously bent because of its weakness) and was told to cut three-inch willows, for which the implement was entirely unfitted. In his efforts to do as he was told, the machete was bent again and he was charged with deliberately doing this and was told to get out of the camp. Some of the other men protested this action and became involved in a walkout.

The men allege that Superintendent Pedley told the Relief Camp workers that he would not tolerate any union in the camp and that there would have to be a purge or clearing out of the union men.

In the Cowichan Lake camp four men who had been selected as a committee to try and remedy the hot water conditions in that camp were escorted from the camp by the police. In this particular instance it appears that the hot water facilities at the camp are so delapidated that it is impossible to get hot water with which to clean the dishes and the workers have to eat out of greasy dishes. The buildings are of single board construction and the workers also asked that efforts be made to obtain paper so that the camps could be lined and made warmer. These were the only complaints made, but eviction was the result.

It would seem that general condemnation of the action of these relief workers by the authorities without proper investigation is not in the best interests of the situation. It is quite possible some of the men in charge of these jobs are not sympathetic to the conditions under which the men are compelled to work, and this phase of the situation should have some investigation.

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H. W. WATTS, Man. Editor.

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Vancouver, Can., February, 1937

FIGHTING FOR JOBS

While unemployment is still rampant there appears to be a tendency upon the part of the Federal Government to believe that the uptrend in business will take care of the situation in the coming months, and that the government can therefore turn its attention to other forms of activity. This is very much to be deplored as we cannot see any possibility of industry being able to find employment for those who are at present seeking it, and for the potential army that will be seeking jobs when released from school and university. There is not a single piece of evidence that industry can absorb the present and potential unemployed, but there is plenty of evidence that industry cannot even begin to absorb more than a very small percentage of that unemployed unless and until a very great reduction is made in the hours worked per person and a very much greater purchasing power provided. The recent fights in Vancouver for snow shovelling jobs is clear proof that these people are willing to work. Some of these men waited ten hours, all night, around the job and then had to fight for the jobs. And no matter whether they be laborers, mechanics or white collar workers, the scramble for jobs is just as tremendous in every line and calling. Under these conditions the government cannot quit and leave the matter up to industry.

ORGANIZED LABOR'S SACRIFICE

The organized labor movement has long advocated the reduction in the hours of labor and just to show that we are prepared to practice what we preach, the building trades propose to make another effort to put the five-day week into effect, commencing in April. The building trades workers, connected with the International Trades Union movement do not propose to negotiate for this, they simply intend to stay off the job Saturdays, with the idea that more men may be able to obtain jobs among the crafts affected. In other words for every ten men who fail to work the four hours Saturday morning, one more man will have to be employed on the job, if it has to be done by a certain time. And the building trades are stipulating that if an employer finds that he is compelled to have work done on Saturdays, that he must pay double time for it. The double time pay is simply made in order that the employer will have as little encouragement as possible to carry on the work. Under these circumstances this is just another of the sacrifices being made by organized labor to better the conditions of the wage workers.

SLANDER OVER THE RADIO

The charge of libel and slander made against Tom McInnis, Radio Broadcaster, by Birt Showler, of the Teamsters' Joint Council, has been before the court recently and is now awaiting the judge's decision. Under these circumstances the case is still sub judice and because of our sentiments in the case we cannot attempt to write up the progress of it without attempting to make some opinions on it. This is the first claim in the Dominion of Canada in which slander over the radio has come before the courts, and it will undoubtedly need some very careful consideration, from the viewpoint of law, before a verdict will be given. In his remarks, however, Judge Manson has stated that he is not going to permit the radio to be used for common abuse. There has been too much of it, he said, and as far as it is in his power he proposes to put a stop to it.

E. S. H. WINN REAPPOINTED

The reappointment for a third period of ten years as chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board of E. S. H. Winn, K.C., was greeted with heartfelt satisfaction by the people who come into contact with the Board's activities. Mr. Winn was first appointed in January, 1917, and the record of his chairmanship during the 20-year period has only to be examined for a full realisation of his administrative competence and an appreciation of his sane policies. Mr. Winn has fully measured up to the responsibilities of a big job which, since its inception, has paid out $53,000,000 in compensation for time losses, medical services, administrative and other costs. Some 465,000 cases have been handled. In other departments the Board has the care of boiler, machinery and electrical inspection, also old age pensions. Until the work of the mothers' pensions department was transferred to the social service branch of the provincial administration, that activity was also looked after. During recent years there has been a tendency in some quarters to create an impression that the Board's regulations should be radically amended. Propaganda was carried on, directed toward creating a right of appeal from the decision of the medical board. While this was supposed to operate in the interests of labor, it was recognised that in the main it would operate to the advantage of the employer, who would have a corresponding right. This would involve litigation, something that the operation of the Board as constituted from the beginning has practically abolished. Fortunately, the Workmen's Compensation Board was not stamped into favoring such sweeping changes, and it is quite well known that Mr. Winn was at all times open to frank and free consultation, no matter who sought it and whether of high or low station in life. Mr. Winn's chairmanship of the Board has been marked by a high standard of integrity in every respect, financial and otherwise, and that is something it is pleasant to be able to say of a man in public office in these sad days of recrimination, charges and counter-charges. His is a record of level-headed sanity, revealing the utmost capacity and personal probity. It is a matter of great satisfaction to be able to compliment the Pattullo Government in this reappointment. Mr. Winn is to be congratulated also and, last but not least, the general public, for it may be sure its interests will continue to be well looked after.

U. S. Labor Dept. Plans For Workers

(By A.F. of L. News Service)

Washington, D.C.—A broad-guage five-point program in the interest of those who work for wages throughout the nation was advocated by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins in her annual report of the United States Department of Labor.

Indirectly denying many reports that the tremendous business recovery of the past three and one-half years has brought similar recovery to the toilers who produce the wealth from which profits are extracted, Miss Perkins declared that despite the gains in the fiscal year ended last June 30, there was still "a long way to go before pre-depression levels of employment and earnings are reached and before living conditions attain those standards of which the resources of the country and the productive capacity of our people admit."

Although she reported improvement in employment and payrolls in private industry and increases in industrial production, department store sales, building construction and cash farm income, Miss Perkins stressed the importance of a program of activity for the Department of Labor, which she summarized as follows:

Hours, Wages, Bargaining

"1. Intensifying its efforts for greater gains with respect to each of the following objectives:

"Steady work in private employment.

"Adequate assistance in securing jobs through the United States Employment Service.

"Adequate facilities for training workers.

"Shorter hours of work.

"Adequate annual income.

"Safe and healthful conditions of work.

"Better industrial relations through collective bargaining, conciliation, mediation and arbitration.

"Elimination of child labor.

"Adequate care and support when incapacitated by reason of accident, industrial disease, unemployment or old age.

"Improving living and social conditions for wage-earners.

Co-operation With States

"2. Co-operating with each of the States in:

"The development of a special program for the advancement of labor standards designed to meet its respective needs.

"Conferences within a State to promote this program.

"3. Extending its scope to include all groups of wage-earners.

"4. Providing more and more adequate information with respect to employment, hours, wages and other conditions affecting the work and life of wage-earners as a basis for sound public policy.

"5. Promoting participation of wage-earners in functions concerned with their employment, social and living conditions."

LABOR BOOARD RULE FAVORS PORTLAND BUS OPERATORS

Portland, Oregon.—Another important victory was won by Portland labor, when announcement came from Washington that the National Labor Relations Board had ordered the Union Pacific Stages, Inc., to re-instate two former bus operators and to pay them back wages for the time they were off.

The Board found that the local division of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees was right in their contention that these men had been discharged by the company for union activities. The Labor Board also directed the company to cease interfering with organisation of employees.

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To your bank, your account is one of thousands; yet it is never lost sight of. No matter how large or small it may be, full knowledge of its condition is instantly available to you, any time. To provide this essential service, your bank employs a skilled clerical staff of thousands and uses the latest mechanical aids to ensure speed with accuracy.

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When far-away friends or relatives are celebrating a wedding, birth, or some anniversary, let your voice add to the joys of the occasion. Call them by long-distance telephone.

It will be a pleasant surprise for them, and the thrill of hearing the voice of a distant dear one will be mutual.

A time for congratulations is a time for a long-distance call.

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YE OLDE ENGLISH FISH RESTAURANT
44 AND 46 WEST HASTINGS
WE SELL MORE FISH THAN ANY RESTAURANT IN CANADA

COMPLIMENTS OF . . .
McGAVIN LIMITED
BUTTER-KRUST BREAD CAKES
BAKERY SERVICE

UNION TRUCK DRIVERS WIN STRIKE IN PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, Pa.—A brief strike by Truck Drivers' Local No. 107, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America, won a distinct victory in union recognition, with the question of hours and minimum wages to be determined by a fair practices committee, headed by Mayor Wilson.

The walk-out was called at the produce terminals of the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio railroads, spreading rapidly to loading platforms of merchants along the Delaware River, for a time threatening the loss of $1,000,000 in perishable goods. Six hundred cars of perishables were on the siding when the strike was called, after previous futile attempts to gain union recognition and thus bring about wage and hour adjustments desired by the workers.

BLAMING THE IRISH

"Bedad," exclaimed Mrs. O'Flaherty, "the Oirish are blamed for everything nowadays."

"Phwat's the matter now?" asked her friend.

"They do be saying that it was an Oirishman gave 'em the fever—a bhoy of the name of 'Mike Robe'."

Many a tired business man who claims his baby kept him up all night isn't telling a lie.

AKRON STENOGGRAPHERS WIN PAY BOOST AND HOURS CUT

Akron, Ohio.—A four-hour strike by five members of Stenographers, Bookkeepers, Typists and Assistants Union No. 19,266, affiliated with the A.F. of L., brought a prompt settlement with the Goodrich local of the United Rubber Workers of America.

Four women and one man employed in the office of the rubber workers, after calling their strike at 8:00 a.m., announced a settlement at noon. The strike was reported entirely effective. The office workers claimed "undue delay" on their request for adjustment of wages and hours. The settlement included wage increases for two of the five employees and establishment of the 36-hour week.

OFFICERS ELECTED BY TAXI DRIVERS UNION

The following officers were elected for the year 1937.

President, E. King; vice-president, A. N. McAuley; secretary-treasurer, C. McIvor; recording secretary, C. H. Brown; trustees, A. Blaise, A. C. Shaw, D. Manning.

DANGEROUS GERMS

"You claim there are microbes in kisses?" she asked the young doctor.

"There are," he said.

"What disease do they bring?" she asked.

"Palpitation of the heart."

Thoroughbred
RYE WHISKY 1780

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Trades Union Directory

LABOR HEADQUARTERS, 529-531 BEATTY STREET

UNIONS AFFILIATED WITH TRADES COUNCIL

...y Salesmen, Local 189, I. B. T. C. ...d M.—Secretary, Birt Showler, 531 ...atty Street, Seymour 7495.

...y and Confectionery Workers' Re... ...ional Union, Local 468—Secre... ...ry, R. Small, 539 Beatty Street, ...ymour 3849.

...—International Journeymen of ...merica, Local 120—Secretary and ...siness Manager, C. E. Herrett, 531 ...atty Street, Seymour 3549.

...y Stagehands' Union, Local 676 ...Business Manager, T. J. Hanafin, ...d Homer Street, Seymour 4788.

...y Union, Local 151—Secre... ...ry, A. Arman, 3048 West Second ...enue, Bayview 1567-L.

...y Union, Local 194—Secre... ...ry, A. Fraser, 5079 Ross Street, ...ne Sey. 601-Y.

...y Union, Local 105—Rec. ...retary, Miss F. Portman, 3943 Daw... ...n St., Burnaby, B. C.

...y Workers' Union, Local 280—... ...retary, A. Bullock, 3434 West 13th; ...ne Bay. 6556-Y.

...y Union, Local No. 1—W. S. ...ell, 1442 East 30th, Fair. 846-R.

...Structural, Ornamental and ...chitectural Ironworkers, Local 97—... ...siness Agent, J. P. Rankins, 531 ...atty St., Seymour 7495.

...g Trades Council—Secretary, ...illiam Page, 539 Beatty St.; Phone ...ymour 7495.

...y and Still Workers, Local 31—... ...retary, T. Umesuki, 544 Powell St., ...ighland 2189.

...y Workers, Jam, Fruit and Veg... ...ble Canners, Union Local No. 105—... ...ecording Secretary, Sarah Ann ...ugal, 4407 Nanaimo Street.

...ters, Local Union 452—Secretary, ...W. Hatley, 531 Beatty St., Sey. 7495.

...y Hall Employees, Local 59—Secre... ...ry, J. Tarbuck, 3917 West Eleventh, ...liott 944-L.

...y Employees' Union, Local 28—... ...retary, Walter Scribbins, 195 East ...ender; Douglas 5591.

...ette Workers' Union, No. 91—Secre... ...ry, Mary Johnston, 634 East Georgia ...reet.

...nical Workers' Union, Local 213—... ...siness Manager, E. H. Morrison, ...31 Beatty Street, Seymour 3516.

...ley Constructors, Local 92—Secre... ...ry, R. Holmes, 531 Beatty Street, ...ymour 7495.

...ers, Existing and Portable, Local ...—Secretary, J. Flynn, 531 Beatty ...reet; Seymour 7495.

...ers, Stationary, Local 882—Secre... ...ry, F. W. Kirk, P. O. Box 1102; ...igh. 6309-Y.

...ers, School and Gaolhouse, Local ...—Secretary, D. M. Mitchell, 1986 ...ndrew St.; High 4194-R.

...Fighters, City, Locals 28—Secre... ...ry, Chas. A. Watson, 1626 E. 18th.

...Fighters, New Westminster, Local ...—Secretary, C. Highsted, 1280 ...ower Avenue.

...Fighters, North Vancouver, Local ...—Secretary, Wm. H. Galbraith, ...ve Hall, North Vancouver.

...al Truck Drivers' Union—President, M. T. Gibson; Secretary, Birt ...owler. Meets Second Tuesday, La... ...or Headquarters.

...al and Restaurant Employees, Local ...—Secretary, W. Stewart; 531 Beatty ...reet; Seymour 7495.

...al Boatmen's Union of the Pacific, ...C. W. of A. (M. C. Nicholson)—Secre... ...ry, James Maskell, 47 Powell Street, ...ancouver.

...ational Longshoremen's Associa... ...n, No. 38/196—Secretary, L. J. ...illier, 233 Main St., Seymour 9449.

...y Workers' Union, Secretary, ...G. Howells, Dundarave, B. C.

...ngshore, No. 44—Secretary, Chas. ...almark, 2875 Venables Street.

...ber and Sawmill Workers' Union, ...al 2703 (Lake Cowichan)—Secre... ...ry, J. C. Bailey, Box 51, Lake ...owichan, B. C.

Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union (U. B. of C. and J.) Local 2172—Business Agent, N. O. Arseneau, 1358 West Eighth; Phone, Bay. 9301-L.

Machinists, Local 692—Secretary, P. R. Bengough, 531 Beatty St., Sey. 6519.

Machinists, Local 182—Secretary, J. G. Keefe, 4514 West 11th, Pt. Grey 847-L.

Milkers' Union, No. 70—Secretary, H. Fuder, 2755 Eton Street.

Maintenance of Way Employees, No. 167—W. R. Mayne, 3063 Napier Street, High. 2094-L.

Meat Cutters and Packing House Employees Union, Local 98—Secretary, W. Evans, 319 Dawson Building.

Mental Hospital Attendants' Union—Secretary, J. McD. Nicolson, Essondale, B. C.

Milk Salesmen and Dairy Employees, Local 464—Business Manager, Birt Showler, 531 Beatty Street, Sey. 7495.

Molders' Union, Local 281—Secretary, John Browne, 622 W. Broadway, Suite 1; Phone Fair. 5573-L.

Motion Picture Projectionists, Local 348—Secretary, E. J. Williams, Box 345, Bay. 5884, Bus. Man., Trin. 5768.

Musicians' Union, Local 145—Business Manager, R. A. Jamieson, 319 Pender West, Douglas 2390.

Painters, Paperhangers and Decorators, Local 138—Business Manager, W. Smith, 531 Beatty Street, Sey. 7495. Res.: Bev. 4613-L.

Pile Drivers and Wooden Bridgemen, Local 2404—Business Manager, A. A. Tutton, 144 W. Hastings, Sey. 7874.

Plasterers, Local 89—Secretary, W. Page, 531 Beatty St., Seymour 7495.

Plumbers and Steamfitters, Local 170—Secretary, C. Pritchard, 529 Beatty Street, Kerrisdale 165-L.

Plumbers and Steamfitters (Railroad)—Local 571—Secretary, T. H. Poulton, 735 Second St., New Westminster.

Photo Engravers, Local 54—I. V. Murphy, 5551 West 29th, Bayview 2893-Y.

Railway Carmen, Local No. 59—Secretary, J. R. Robertson, 637 West 18th, Fairmont 2358-L.

Railway Carmen, Local 230—Secretary, W. E. Bradley, 3030 Wilson Avenue, New Westminster.

Sheet Metal Workers, Local 280—Business Manager, Dan Macpherson, 531 Beatty Street, Seymour 7495.

Sheet Metal Workers (Railroad) Local 214—Secretary, Geo. Watson, 1969 East 19th.

Sign and Pictorial Painters, Local 726—Secretary, Jas. B. Collin, 4462 John Street. Fair. 4269L.

Stenographers, Typists and Bookkeepers, Local 15177—Secretary, Anne MacDonald, 531 Beatty St., Sey. 7495.

Stone Cutters, Journeymen of North America—Secretary, Frank Hall, 2931 East 42nd; Carlton 248-R.

Stereotypers and Electrotypers, Local 88—Secretary, J. McKinnon, 3635 W. 14th, Bayview 1149-X.

Street Railway Employees, Division 101—Business Manager, Fred Griffin, Prior Street Car Barns, Trinity 4680.

Tailors, Journeymen, Local 178—Secretary, Mrs. J. E. Harrison, 1268 Nelson Street.

Taxi Drivers, Local 181—Secretary, C. McIvor, 727 W. 20th Ave.

Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 118—Secretary, H. Pearson, Orpheum Theatre.

Textile Workers, Local 1700—Secretary, Catherine Wilson, 3327 West Sixth.

Tile Setters, Local No. 2—Secretary, W. Hamm, 3646 Trinity, Highland 2120-L.

Typographical Union, Local 226—Secretary, Harry Neelands, 531 Beatty St., Seymour 6321.

Down, Down Goes Job Opportunity

By Electrical Workers' Journal's Housing Authority

TREND IN BUILDING IS TOWARD FEWER DOLLARS SPENT ON LABOR—MORE ON MATERIALS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *Here is a valuable contribution to the literature of construction economics. For the first time, the 1936-1937 trend in construction is described in terms of dollars and cents, and labor. Moreover this article adds up to make an excellent contribution to literature of the new technology. Read it. It affects your bread and butter*).

WITH an upswing in residential building forecast for 1937 the building trades worker sees new hope in the dawn of the new year. But the dawn does not light a cloudless sky. The depression, and technology, have left their mark and the result is this: as in factory employment, the machine has progressed, the human element has been displaced. An analysis of statistics from many sources reveals that during the last 10 years there has been a very significant drop in the man-hours of building craftsmen on the job, in comparison with the cost of materials delivered at the job. In 1927, authorities estimated that the average residential building job paid labor directly engaged in its erection, at least as much in dollars for wages as it did for materials delivered at the site and used in its construction. The ratio was about 50-50, and if the balance tipped at all it was in the direction of labor.

In 1937, it is evident, when job-labor and materials-delivered split the construction dollar, labor will get only about 35 cents of it.

The dollar volume of construction will have to greatly surpass that of 1927 before an equal amount of work for building craftsmen is developed, as was done in that year.

There are two principal reasons why the share of materials in the building dollar has gained, while that of wages on the job has been reduced. One is the increased use of machinery on the job and prefabrication in the factory, ranging through such items as steam-shovel excavation, ready-mixed concrete, ready-made mill work, simplified heating and plumbing, that cut down the amount of labor necessary on the job. The other is the desire of the home buyer for the luxury items such as the automatic heating plant, electrical conveniences, insulation, and other expensive equipment, which load down the materials side of the ledger without adding a proportionate share for labor on the job.

The statistical record of labor vs. material costs on residential construction is far from complete. Many general contractors, who let sub-contracts calling for both labor and materials to be furnished by the sub-contractor, do not know what proportion of the money spent goes into payrolls of men on the job. In other records, the wages of the men are carefully sifted out but the contractor's profit is lumped in with the material bills in a way that defies analysis. However, we have evidence enough to show the trend clearly, and we present it herewith. If, as it is forecast, residential building volume doubles its 1936 total this year, we are going to see a redoubled volume of accusations against building crafts—that their high wages, galling restrictions, and an alleged shortage of skilled workers, are the main reason why every family cannot buy its own home. We are going to show the other side of the picture.

In 1927, a year of great building activity, Arthur C. Holden, Henry Wright, and Clarence S. Stein, former chairman of the New York State Commission on housing and regional planning—all recognized authorities in the construction field—published a digest of labor costs in the building trades as related to the cost of dwellings to home owners. On the basis of the completed house, with its land, selling costs, profits and every other item the home buyer's dollar paid for, they showed the following division?

Apportionment of the Construction Dollar in 1927

	Cents or %
To land and its improvements	21½
To promoters and financiers	27
To materials delivered at job (including transportation, labor at shop and mill, shop profit and overhead, cost of raw materials)	25
To labor at job	26½

Their quarrel at that time was against the high cost of financing, one which may again be opened to attack. But for the purpose of this study we will note merely that they found that more than half of the dollar that was split between materials and builders' wages, was going to wages. The following index was therefore established for the period of 1927:

	Per cent
Materials delivered at job	48
Wages of men on job	52

In 1928 the Bureau of Labor statistics made a study of the relative cost of material and labor in building construction in three cities—Washington, D. C., Cincinnati, Ohio, and Decatur, Ill. Their findings were summarized as follows:

Per Cent Cost of Labor and Materials in 1928

	Materials	Labor
Residential buildings	54.0	46.0
Non-residential bldgs.	61.7	38.3
Total, weighted	58.1	41.8

In a survey based on the 1929 business of 30,597 general contractors in building construction, both residential and non-residential, the United States Summary Census of Construction showed practically the same percentage with a slight shift toward material costs again. According to the analysis of H. E. Foreman, statistical editor of the Cleveland Constructor,

"Considering only expeditures for wages paid and the cost of materials as 100 per cent, and examining the relationship of one to the other, we find wages equal to 41.7 per cent and materials to 58.3 per cent."

Making a more extensive survey in 1931 and 1932, covering 15 cities with samples of typical residental and non-residential building, the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed a much accelerated trend toward decrease of labor's share, particularly in residential building. This was due at least partly, we surmise, to cutting of wages at a time when building workers were fighting hard to keep the wolf from the door. The bureau found that on residential buildings the proportion paid for materials ranged from an average of 74 per cent in Dallas, Texas, to 57.5 in Seattle, Wash. Their average for the 15 cities was as follows:

Per Cent Cost of Labor and Materials in 1932

	Materials	Labor
Residential bldgs.	62.7	37.3
Non-residential bldgs.	64.3	35.7
Total, weighted	63.6	36.4

That this pronounced dwindling in the share received by labor on the job was due in considerable part to wage-cutting and chiselling is indicated by the material and labor costs published, also by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, of one large apartment project built in 1933-1934, Knickerbocker Village, in New York City, a slum-clearance project financed by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The wage scale here ranged from 50 to 88 cents per hour paid for two classes of common labor, to $1.62 per hour for structural steel workers. (Average hourly earnings). On this one project the score was as follows: Materials: 56.7 per cent—Labor: 43.3 per cent.

The year 1936 found the wage structure stiffering as construction volume increased and skilled workers were in demand. Material prices also scored a gain. In addition, factories and millwork plants had increased the amount of pre-fabrication of materials so that labor on the job was decreased; and the machine, as exemplified by ready-mixed concrete and the steam shovel, had found its way even to the site of the small residence. The consumer demand for automatic heating devices, handsome plumbing fixtures, and installed electrical conveniences as parts of the original cost of the house, also weighted the materials side of the balance.

This extended even into the very moderate priced house field. One Washington residential builder who operates on contract only, gave us cost breakdowns on two of his 1936 jobs, both of which were priced, not including site, at less than $6000. One of these showed: Materials, $3,168, or 65.8 per cent; Labor, $1650, or 34.2 per cent. The other paid for materials, $3131, or 66.0 per cent against $1615, or 34.0 per cent for labor on the job. One item of $47.40 on the second job, was not allocated either to labor or materials.

Called by the Architectural Forum "the most detailed and accurate analysis that had ever been released of a small house," Purdue University's Housing research project also furnishes a complete breakdown of material and labor costs on a group of five houses specifically designed to cost less than $5000 and built at Purdue with the particular object of studying building costs. Construction cost summaries on two of the houses were published in the December, 1936, number of Architectural Forum. The study of the relation between materials and labor costs is said to be most careful, and "the care taken in hiring timekeepers to record material costs and work hours paid its first dividend when, from its figures, the project was able to state that the general supposition that construction costs of a house can be equally divided between labor and material is erroneous."

Purdue Housing Research Project Costs—1936—House No. 1

	Materials	Labor
Dollars	$2,939.00	$1,491.65
Per cent	66.3	33.7

Purdue Housing Research Project —1936—House No. 4

	Materials	Labor
Dollars	$3,263.85	$1,271.00
Per cent	72.0	28.0

House No. 1 was constructed of wood frame and stucco with inside wall and ceiling finish of plywood. Floors were of linoleum or hardwood blocks. Among significant items which show why material costs are increasing and labor on the job losing out are: Insulation: labor, $18.75; materials, $70.70—linoleum: labor, $1.85; materials, $36.25—millwork: labor, $169.55; materials, $836.55, of which $200.75 represents ready made cabinets which were installed at a labor cost of $13.85.

House No. 4, which shows a percentage for labor on the job of only 28 per cent against 72 per cent for materials, has walls and roof of prefabricated steel panels. Wall panels cost $932.30, were erected at a labor cost of $218.55; roof panels cost $429.70 and were put in place at a cost of $71.35 for wages.

Electrical work on House No. 1 cost $77.25 for materials, $30.75 for wages. On House No. 4 the electricians got a larger share, with $55.80 for materials and $62.50 for wages.

House No. 1, at a general contract price of $4,852.45, cost 38 cents per cubic foot, was erected in 96 working days. House No. 4, at a contract price of $4,992, cost 36 cents a cubic foot, was built in 75 working days, but apparently will require further expenditure for insulation in order to make it liveable.

The Purdue project furnishes a marked example of the use of prefabricated materials to reduce labor costs. In contrast to this architectural insistence on factory-ised building, we have a different sort of a project in the District of Columbia—houses built of brick, with plastered interior walls, built according to the highest standards of construction because they are intended to keep their usefulness for 60 years or more. These are the Alley Dwelling Authority's new low-rent houses, called "the lowest-cost good housing that can be provided" under the provisions of the D.C. building code. The project was described in the October, 1936, Journal of Electrical Workers.

This group of row houses furnishes a good comparison with the Purdue experimental building. Traditional materials are used—brick, lumber, plaster, sand, cement, fabricated at the site by skilled building craftsmen, each of whom received the union rate of pay for his particular trade. Each dwelling consists of four rooms with bath, but no basement, and to eliminate expense, heating is by stoves, thus relieving the materials side of the ledger of the heavy item of the heating plant. The houses have a good wiring job with good quality lighting fixtures, wall switches and convenience outlets, but no other electrical conveniences were included in the cost. In Unit A (six houses) heating stoves only were furnished. In Unit B (six houses) ranges and other kitchen equipment to the value of $163.34 was added to each house. Plumbing fixtures in both units include for each house a complete bath in tub, lavatory and toilet; porcelain sink and laundry tub combination, hot water storage tank. Under these conditions—with highly paid labor, traditional materials, no gadgets, and emphasis on high construction standards, it is evident that the highest practicable ratio of labor costs in comparison with material costs, would be reached.

As the general contractor and the sub-contractors were required, each week, to submit a sworn statement of their payroll costs, the Alley Dwelling Authority believes it has an accurate presentation of labor costs on this project:

Total contract	$40,279.40
Labor	15,351.62
Balance representing contractor's material, profit and overhead	$24,927.78

Labor's share is then shown to be 38.12 per cent of the entire contract cost, including the contractor's overhead and profit. The Alley Dwelling Authority has no way of separating out this overhead and profit, but if we arbitrarily call it 10 per cent, and deduct the amount of $4,027 from the third item we would have $20,900 for the cost of materials and the percentages then would be: labor, 42.3 per cent; materials, 57.7 per cent. We may be far wrong in deducing that overhead and profit accounted for only 10 per cent but we do not believe it would go much higher than this since the contract was awarded through competitive bidding, and the Alley Dwelling Authority used much effort to secure a low price on its project in order that low rents might be charged. So it appears that even with decided advantages in its favor, labor's share cannot equal materials' share of residential building costs. This is due partly, we believe, to the increased use of machinery on the job (steam shovels for grading, ready-mixed concrete) and partly to improvement even in such traditional materials as plaster, making it easier to work and requiring less man-hours on the job; improvement in fixtures and fittings, and more complete finish of millwork, all leading to the same result.

We have the following tabulation of the time worked by various classifications of labor on this project of 12 houses:

	Average number of men on job	Pct. to total men	Total man hours	Pct. to grand total man hours	Amount	Pct. to total amount
Supervisory and technical	4	3.64	780½	5.24	$1,169.85	7.62
Skilled workers and foremen	65	59.09	7,248	48.69	10,440.64	68.02
Semi-skilled (pay rates 65c to $1)	22	22.00	557	3.74	442.13	2.88
Unskilled (pay rate less than 65c)	19	17.27	6,304½	42.33	3,298.98	21.48
Totals	110	100.00	14,890	100.00	$15,351.62	100.00

The following classification shows rates of pay of the various trades, but it is not entirely complete. Apprentices and helpers are not classified as to trade:

Classification—	Rate	Average No. of men on job	Total man hours	Amount
Engineer	$10.00 day	1	67	$90.00
Engineers	1.85 hour	1	24	44.40
Supervising foremen	1.50 hour	1	680	1,020.00
Bricklayers	1.50 hour	5	911½	1,367.40
Bricklayers	1.625 hour	1	46½	75.56
Plumbers	1.50 hour	2	639½	959.25
Carpenters	1.375 hour	7.68	3,024	4,158.00
Painters	1.375 hour	5	1,225	1,684.64
Truck Drivers	.65 hour	7	147	95.55
Laborers	.55 hour	12	4,838½	2,661.21
Watchmen	3.00 day	2	968	339.96
Helpers	.50 hour	1.5	390	195.00
Helpers	.75 hour	1	56	42.00
Apprentices	.50 hour	1	8	4.00
Foremen	1.625 hour	1	105	170.62
Apprentices	.60 hour	1.6	165	98.79
Mechanics	1.50 hour	2	97	145.50
Roofers	1.10 hour	1.6	29	31.81
Roofers	.85 hour	2	28½	24.22
Roofers	.70 hour	8	40½	28.35
Roofers	1.50 hour	1	8	12.00
Painters	1.00 hour	1	49	49.00
Electrical Workers	1.65 hour	2	128	211.20
Sheetmetal Workers	1.50 hour	1	46	69.00
Plasterers	1.75 hour	22	410½	718.75
Hod Carriers	.875 hour	3	264	231.00
Lathers	1.50 hour	3	192	288.40
Plasterer Foremen	11.50 day	1	30	57.50
Concrete Foremen	1.50 hour	1	82	123.00
Plasterers	1.50 hour	2	24	36.00
Cement Finishers	1.375 hour	2.75	178	245.38
Rodmen	1.625 hour	1	9½	15.45
Iron Workers	1.75 hour	3	12	21.00
Cement Finishers	1.50 hour	1	11	16.50
Rate'l Men	1.00 hour	1	21	21.00
		110.00	14,890	$15,351.62

WE MORE STATES ADOPT UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(By A.F. of L. News Service)

Washington, D.C.—Spurred by desire to obtain for their states statutory share of Federal government's unemployment insurance levied on payrolls, effective Jan. the legislatures of North Carolina, West Virginia, New Mexico, Virginia and Ohio have enacted, within the space of one week, laws drafted in accordance with the Federal Social Security Act granting compensation to thousands of unemployed workers.

In most of the states the benefits for the unemployed are not available until 1938—a year after the Federal law becomes effective.

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UNION DAIRIES

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Bayview 553
ROYAL DAIRY, LIMITED
Fairmont 1264
VANCOUVER HEIGHTS DAIRY; Highland 2228
STEVE'S DAIRY; Bayview 2192
TWIGG ISLAND DAIRY
(Independent)
Seymour 2877

New Westminster
ASSOCIATED DAIRIES, LTD.
New Westminster 1446

North Vancouver
ASSOCIATED DAIRIES, LTD.
North 122

ALL UNION MEN

The above companies deserve your patronage

"BUILD B.C. PAYROLLS"

A Can of Milk a Day!

A CAN of Pacific Milk a day for eleven years and some days more than a can.

This is the record of Mr. E., who is the picture of health. He speaks in highest praise of Pacific Milk. A splendid food, as his health shows.

Pacific Milk
Irradiated of Course
100 per cent. British Columbia Owned and Controlled
PLANT AT ABBOTSFORD

UNION TAXI COMPANIES

Yellow Cabs; Sey. 7131
Packard Cabs; Sey. 7131
Terminal City Limousines
Seymour 7131
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New Zealand Labor Government Progress

Labor in New Zealand, after 12 months of successful government, now looks forward to its program for its second year of office.

Complete replanning of the education system, free milk for all school children, and schemes for health insurance and superannuation which will cover every citizen are the main planks in the platform, according to an article by the Hon. Walter Nash, minister of finance and marketing, just published in the Quarterly Journal of the New Fabian Research Bureau.

Mr. Nash's account of the great progress that has already been made is sufficient proof that he and his colleagues possess the ability to put this new program into action. The previous achievements of the Labor Government may be broadly divided into two types.

What Has Been Done

First, there are those measures which are primarily intended to promote social welfare, and which only indirectly help to build a more stable and more productive economy.

Unemployment allowances have been raised to 20s for single men and 35s for married men, with 4s a week for each child. Pensions of 22s 6d are paid to women at 60 and men at 65. Widows receive 20s a week and 10s for each child under 15.

A 40-hour five-day week without loss of earnings has been introduced in most industries. Arbitration courts have been set up which have at present fixed the basic wage at £3 16s.

These measures have all cost a good deal of money; against them the Government can place another set of achievements—those which aim at making industry and agriculture more productive, and which, therefore, bring in an economic return.

The central bank has been brought under public control. The Government carries on the whole business of the export of dairy produce by paying a guaranteed price to the producer. It has also taken over the old Mortgage Corporation, which had private shareholders, and is, therefore, in a position to make loans to industry, to adjust farm debts and so on.

The Government is carrying out a vigorous housing program and has already established a skeleton organization for industrial and agricultural planning.

Need For Foreign Trade

Mr. Nash makes it clear that the Cabinet is fully alive to the fact that New Zealand can only maintain a high standard of life by exporting a great deal of agricultural produce and buying manufactured articles in return.

It is in the hope of being able to make a suitable trading arrangement for the interchange of surplus products that Mr. Nash is now paying a prolonged visit to this country.

If he can succeed in doing this, when there is real reason to hope that Labor in New Zealand may provide, in Mr. Nash's words, collective security for private individuals.

Meanwhile, it is setting an excellent example of really constructive, effective and capable government.

Federal Civil Service Now Reorganized

The Dominion Government is displaying commendable judgment in the businesslike methods of reorganizing the government departments. For some years it has been realized that there has been duplication, over staffing, waste effort and it is in the public interest that such conditions should not exist. It was a serious mistake to throw people out of employment during the depression; a bad example which was followed by only too many private firms. The reorganization in the Departments could have been carried out without dismissals, by readjusting the personnel of the Civil Service; by transferring surplus staff to Departments needing extra staff. The practice of suddenly cutting down staffs and firing the surplus was poor business. The hiring of inexperienced people in other departments instead of taking on those fired elsewhere, was worse. Canada should be able to build up a compact, highly efficient civil service free from political intereference and job-jobbery. Most cabinet ministers agree with this, but the pressure from outside is so heavy that it takes a strong willed minister to resist the flood of job hunters foisted upon him. The tax payer pays for the Civil Service, and in times like these the cost should be reduced to the minimum, consistent with efficient service and without increasing unemployment.

The Ministry of Transport has replaced the old Department of Railways and Canals, the Department of Marine and the Civil Aviation Branch of the Department of National Defence. The Department of Mines and Resources has replaced the old Department of Interior, the Department of Mines, the Department of Indian Affairs, the Department of Immigration and Colonization. These consolidations are all to the good. With efficient permanent civil servants the disruption of the public service which follows every general election becomes negligible.

The Government is to be commended that in most cases it has promoted men in the Service rather than brought in political appointees. Nothing can substitute for experience and knowledge; and the bedevilling of the Civil Service by the appointment of inefficients to key positions is steadily going by the board.

In all these reorganizations the jobs of those who have been years in the service should be insured. If the job itself disappeared the empolyee should be given the first available job of like standing in some other department.—Canadian Congress Journal.

East Watching Vancouver Activity

Organizer Art Crawford, International organizer for the Sheet Metal Workers' Union, who has just made his annual visit to his home town, addressed the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council at its last meeting and informed the delegates of conditions back East. He stated that the trades union movement is making splendid progress in practically all trades. In his own trade the union members have had the best year since 1930 and have averaged about eight months' work, whereas they used to get only four or five. There has been some wage increases, but most of the efforts of the union have been towards building it up, so that they can make the organization strong enough to obtain wage increases without danger of having to strike for it.

He stated that the Eastern trade unionists had their eyes on Vancouver and were noting the progress being made here. He complimented Secretary Bengough for having obtained the highest vote for Vice-President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and made note of the splendid work having been done by Secretary Herrett of the Vancouver Barbers' Union in his organization trip across Canada. He said that in the East they were noting with a great deal of interest the activity of the Teamsters' Union in Vancouver, and relative to the lockout at the Burns & Company plant, he stated that the butcher situation in the East was somewhat similar. Company unions have been formed to offset the encroachment of bona fide trades unions, but it has been proven time and time again that company unions have never been able to make conditions better for the employed. When the company at last recognizes that their sales are at a standstill they may agree to recognize a boni fide union, hence it behooves every man and woman in organized labor to tell their friends and neighbors that Burns' products are all unfair.

General Motors Judge Issued Picket Ban

Flint, Mich.—Circuit Judge Edward D. Black, who issued a sweeping injunction here against striking workers, including the prohibition of picketing, is a substantial stockholder in General Motors Corporation, according to charges of union officials.

It is claimed the judge, who evinced such a friendly interest in the motor giant, showing no consideration for the rights of the workers, owns the tidy number of 3665 shares of General Motors, which are currently quoted at about $219,000. In fighting the injunction, the workers point out that Michigan law provides that "no judge of any court shall sit as such in any cause or proceeding in which he is a party or in which he is interested." Labor officials have long contended that labor injunction judges usually have special reasons for their anti-union decisions and it is believed the special reason in this instance has been located.

WAGE ASSIGNMENT RACKET PENALIZED IN NEW YORK

New York,—Recurrence of the old credit store racket of having purchasers sign a "wage assignment" under the belief that they were signing merely an "installment contract," was nipped here, when the two operators of the so-called Fox Credit Clothing Company were fined $50 each, or ten days in jail, for violation of Section 440 of the Penal Law.

Guilty pleas were accepted on only one count, in lieu of many pending, when the men agreed to go out of business and make restitution to all their victims. The information showed that they had victimized war veterans and other workers, by pretending that suits sold for $17 were recently tailor made, when they had simply been made over from old clothes. The same men also operated a concern, secretly, through which they induced customers to sign wage assignments in the belief they were installment contracts. On these, it was charged, customers in many instances eventually paid as much as $33 for their $17 made-over suits.

Dialogues On Labor Subjects Aid In Workers' Problems

Washington, D.C.—Affiliation of State Federations of Labor and local central bodies with the Workers' Education Bureau of the American Federation of Labor was strongly urged in a letter released to the organizations concerned by William Green, president of the A.F. of L.

It was pointed out that the 1936 convention at Tampa approved of a special charge to State Federations of Labor and central bodies that desire to affiliate with the Bureau. The service charge for the coming year for material from the research division, as well as for the Bureau's news service and Quarterly, is set at $2 a month, payable quarterly.

A large number of affiliation fees will enable the Bureau, under this arrangement, to give much more service, President Green stated. For the year 1937, he added "we especially need an educational program like the one contemplated by the Bureau."

Scope of Educational Assistance

The years of experience of the Workers' Education Bureau in helping the labor movement to develop education of, by and for workers, have shown the need of educational material that could be carried directly into the unions, it was explained. Existing educational institutions have been urged to co-operate with labor in such education, with notable success in many places. "But our experience shows," says President Green, "that in this, too, the Bureau must point the way."

Giving further details of the work accomplished and contemplated President Green stated:

"Recently the research division of the Bureau, here in Washington, in collaboration with certain local unions, has been preparing material for union use. The first material to be published comprises seven skits or dialogues on Social Security, three of which have already appeared in the American Federationist, and all of which you may have seen. From all over the country the Bureau is receiving requests for this material, and reports of its usefulness to union members for grasping the basic principles of social security and the essentials to work for in their state law and its administration.

Constant Flow of New Material

"The Workers Education Bureau has also prepared other material, in collaboration with unions. It has completed explanations in dialogue form on the union label, workmen's compensation, occupational diseases, and wage negotiations, and is preparing material that will be useful to unions in organizing and in insisting on labor's legal rights. Its working plans for next year contemplate material in dialogue or other form that can be presented by the members themselves in their union meetings. The Bureau expects to be able to provide enough new material of this sort upon subjects suggested by unions for every two weeks throughout the year. It hopes also to service unions upon request with special information to follow up the material which it sends out."

PROVERBS REVISED

Every picture yells a story.

The darkest hour is just before the pawn.

What the eye doesn't see the foot trips over.

Where singleness is bliss, 'tis folly to be wives.

One touch of sunshine makes the whole world skin.

There are none so blind as those who face strong headlights.

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Cusson's Solid Brilliantine	.14	Dr. Reid's Syrup of White Pine and Tar, large	.49
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Baltimore Taxi Drivers Gain Armistice Terms

Baltimore, Md.—Showing a militant fight and effective organization, taxicab drivers here whose strike threw at least 350 cabs out of service, have agreed to an armistice until midnight January 2, on condition that all men be re-instated, including five who were discharged December 11, for alleged union activities, and which act brought the strike to a head the following day.

After conferences at Governor Nice's office, in Annapolis, the men agreed to handle the holiday crowds with the understanding also that, in the meantime, negotiations for a settlement would be continued. Winning re-instatement of the five discharged men and negotiation with the union is regarded as an important victory, as the controversy came to revolve around recognition of the union. A complete victory is anticipated and the men are reported as prepared to press their demands to a satisfactory conclusion.

Convict-made Goods Ban Constitutional

Washington, D.C.—The Supreme Court of the United States gave unanimous approval to the Ashurst-Sumners Act, passed by the 1936 session of Congress, providing that convict-made goods shipped in inter-state commerce must bear a label upon the container on which is printed the name of the prison where the articles were produced and to whom they are consigned.

The object of the law is to prohibit railroads and other carriers of interstate commerce from accepting prison-made products to be delivered in states that have adopted the state use system, whereby no convict-made goods, wares or merchandise produced or mined in the U.S. can be sold on the open market. Twenty-two states now have the state use system.

Advocated by A.F. of L.

The Ashurst-Sumners Act, whose passage was advocated by the American Federation of Labor, is supplementary legislation to more thoroughly enforce the Hawes-Cooper Act (also an A.F. of L. measure) which divests state prison made products of their interstate character and provides that when such goods are shipped into a state the laws of that state shall govern.

REQUEST NEW TRIAL FOR CALIFORNIA UNIONISTS

Upon the request of the Inland-boatmen's Union of the Pacific, B.C. Division, the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council has forwarded a resolution to the Governor of the State and the District Attorney of Alameda County, Calif., asking that a new and fair trial be given to Earl King, E. G. Ramsay and F. J. Connor convicted on alleged prejured evidence of having been "responsible" for the murder of Chief Engineer Alberts.

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No. 189

MUSICIANS GET "LIVING MUSIC" AGREEMENTS

Philadelphia, Pa. — Philadelphia labor unions continue their militant march forward, with new victories being recorded with consistent regularity.

Local Union No. 77, American Federation of Musicians, has been successful in forcing the return of "living music" in the Warner Bros. theatres, after a fight that started last September, with pickets active ever since until the settlement was reached. A 52-week contract was secured, which will mean nearly $200,000 in wages for union musicians. All Warner Bros. theatres here having combination vaudeville and moving pictures are covered by the contract.

WESTERN FILM CO. PLANS UNION JOB

Word comes from Victoria, that the Western Film Co., which proposes to operate in Victoria, has informed the Victoria Trades and Labor Council that they desire to employ union men and to have an agreement with all trades affected. A committee representing the various trades will draw up an agreement for presentation to the company. The Trades Council also suggested that a Federation of the trades involved in the studio work should be formed.

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Pilsener BEER

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Pilsener Beer, long the favorite of British Columbia, has now received International recognition by the award of two first prize diplomas at the Empire wide Brewers Exhibition, London, England. Entered in two classes in competition with beers from all parts of the British Empire, PILSENER Beer won first awards in both classes.

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