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# LABOR STATESMAN

OWNED BY THE VANCOUVER, NEW WESTMINSTER AND DISTRICT TRADES & LABOR COUNCIL

BUILD STRONG UNIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

No. 616. VANCOUVER, CANADA, APRIL, 1950 Established 1924

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## WHAT THEY SAID . . .

### Fair Chance for Everyone Is Goal

"We do not want to hand life on a silver platter to every newborn child in America. Nobody can do that, and it would not be a good thing if it could be done.

"But we do want to make sure that every person in the United States is given a fair chance—a fair chance at edcuation, a fair chance at health, a fair chance to enjoy his declining years, a fair chance to keep his home together in times of economic distress."—Federal Security Administrator, Oscar Ewing.

### Taxes Hurt Little Guy

"Theoretically we are taxed according to our ability to pay, but nearly always the man who really gets hurt is the little fellow . . . He is the unorganized he has no lobbyist or pressure groups behind him. When he cries, his is the small, thin voice in the wilderness. He may fume and fret, but he pays up."—The country's leading authority on taxation, Jacob K. Lasser, in the New York Times Magazine.

### Our Old Folks

"Old age homes and a pension scaled just above survival level merely transform a potentially valuable social group into an isolated status in which they are fair game for political charlatans!" Dr. Max Jacobson.

### My Religion

"The world is my Country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion."—Thomas Paine.

### Toil Is the Law

"If you want knowledge, you must toil for it; if food, you must toil for it; and if pleasure, you must toil for it; toil is the law."—Ruskin.

### Better Life Open To All

"The applications of science yet to come are manifold and far-reaching. With them we can establish a standard of living in this country far higher than we have ever had; we can make more goods and have them more generally available throughout the population. We can prolong our lives and escape the ravages of old age, overcoming the scourges of mankind, epidemic disease, cancer, senility, to an extent that we can now barely grasp. We can create an environment in which the creative spirit has an opportunity to rise and aspire. We can build a society in which there will be justice and good will.

"All this is within our grasp; we know it, for the performance of the past 10 years is a guarantee of the effectiveness of the system under which we operate and of the fundamental principles to which we adhere.

"All we have to do [illegible] preserve that system and improve it and hold fast to those ideals and the faith from which they arise."—Dr. Vannevar Bush, Modern Arms and Free Men (Simon and Schuster).

### Today Is Not So Short

"Look to this day, for it is life. Yesterday is already a dream, tomorrow is only a vision; today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day."—Sanskrit.

### Some People Never Understand Prosperity

"Most of us learned back in 1932 that this country can't be prosperous unless the laboring man, the farmer and the white collar worker have enough money to buy the things they need . . .

"But apparently some people can't or won't read the lessons of history. They think it is possible for them to get along all right while the rest of the country starves."—Sen. Claude Pepper (D., Fla.).

### Why Toss Them On the Junk Heap?

"Automatic age brackets must be eliminated in industrial and civil organizations. No one should be retired at 65 unless he chooses or unless it is medically necessary. Experience and patience are at a premium in the present time. Why toss them on the junk heap."—Dr. Max Jacobson.

### Pivotal Domestic Issue Today

"The Welfare State is the pivotal domestic issue today, and on this issue there are, roughly speaking, four general stands: radical, liberal, conservative, reactionary. If our past tells us anything, it tells us that in time most of us will line up on this issue in the liberal or conservative rank, with our eyes and hearts still fixed on the 'extreme center.' I feel strongly that the Republicans will deny their own destiny if they continue to follow those leaders whose political vocabulary on this issue is limited to a shrill 'No.' Reaction will never win a working majority in both White House and Congress."—A. Whitney Griswold, President-designate of Yale.

### Atomic Energy

"The very discovery which is the cause of so much alarm today—the harnessing of atomic energy—holds promise for man's welfare that we have been too timid in attempting to envision."—Dr. James R. Killian, jr., president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## 26th Annual Edition

"That's why you should let the union bargain for you, Ed!"

## Wage Hike for Electric Panel-Cemco Workers

Alex Dorland Asst. Business Manager for Electrical Workers Union No. 213 reports wage increases and new agreement for the members employed by the Electric Panel Manufacturing Co. and the Cemco Electrical Manufacturing Co. Over 100 workers will benfit in the wage increases wich range up to 13c per hour and making the Journeyman rate $1.53.

The agreement also includes nine statutory holidays with pay and a vacation plan which will increase the week by one day each added year's service after one year.

It is expected that the official LBEW union label will soon be available for the goods manufactured by these firms.

## Neon Products Plant Still Closed Down

There is no change in the situation at the Neon Products plant where 55 Electrical Workers are on strike. The members of the Sheet Metal Workers Union and the Sign and Pictorial Painters Union are not crossing the picket line. The Unemployment Insurance Commission Umpire in Ottawa has authorized payment of unemployed benefits to the non-strikers.

## Typos Get Increase on Three Local Dailies

Members of the Vancouver Typographical Union, Local No. 226 have obtained a 13c per hour wage increase and other concessions on the three local dailies, The Vancouver Daily Province, The Vancouver Sun and the Vancouver News-Herald.

The new wage will be $1.80 per hour for day work, and $1.90 for night work. There has been a new holiday provision in the agreement giving the members 10 days annual holiday with pay, after one year of service and 15 days after 15 years of service, and five statutory holidays.

Over 200 members are affected by the increase which has also been made retroactive to October 1, 1949.

## New Buying Power

Every new job which supplies a need creates new wealth to pay the worker's wage and thus adds new buying power. If you and other citizens of your town provide a factory for a firm that needs to expand, you are helping to create needed jobs and new buying power. If you get new customers for your plants by reaching people who need your products and do not know of them, you are increasing job opportunities. If you use local resources and local labor to produce a better or lower priced product, you are contributing new income. If you get needed hospitals, water supply, more health service—you are providing jobs which make your community a better place to live. Companies improving plant and machinery also create productive jobs.

All such new work creates value, so that jobs pay for themselves, either now or in the long run. And the sum total of all projects like these, plus substantial wage increases, can expand business enough to restore "full employment."

## Clerks in 40 Safeway Stores Get Wage Boost

Wage increases have been gained by grocery clerks in 40 Safeway stores in Greater Vancouver, Greater Victoria and New Westminster in a new agreement.

The new contract retroactive to Feb. 27 climaxed more than three months of negotiations between Canada Safeway and Retail Grocery and Food Clerks (AFL), Local 1518 for 365 employees.

A joint company-union statement said wage increases have been gained by most experienced brackets of both male and female employees. Increases are coupled with a reduction in the male apprenticeship period from four to three years.

Many journeymen grocery clerks now earn from $30.80 to $50.16 weekly on a graduated scale while female rates are from $26.40 to $39.60.

Male clerks receiving top rates at the agreement date will get over-scale rate $51.92.

Other provisions of the previous agreement calling for union shop, checkoff, nine statutory holidays, vacation plan and other provisions will be maintained with several minor improvements.

## Non-Strikers Get Their Unemployment Insur'ce

Sheet Metal Workers and Sign and Pictorial Painters who were unable to go to work, when the Electrical Workers Union, Local 213, put a picket line around the Neon Products company plant, are now receiving unemployment insurance.

There was some dispute over this pay, when the local claims officer of the Vancouver Unemployment Insurance Commission took the matter up with the Umpire at Ottawa and opposed the payment of unemployment benefits to the men, on the basis that they refused to cross the picket line. The Umpire upheld his opposition.

The officers of the unions involved, along with the Building Trades Council and the Trades and Labor Council appealed the decision, and the matter was placed before the Local Board of Referees, and after the matter was outlined by Jack Eaves, of the Sign Painters Union, James Walker of the Sheet Metal Workers Union, R. K. Gervin of the Trades and Labor Council and H. W. Watts and Frank Carlisle of the Building Trades Council as well as members of the unions involved, the Board of Referees gave a unanimous decision in favor of payment.

After the report had been forwarded to Ottawa, approval was given to the payment of the insurance and all workers involved are now in receipt of the payments.

## Tire Repair Firm Fires and Rehires Workers

Automotive Workers Local 1857, reported that the City Council had called for tenders for tire retreading and repair work and that three firms had tendered, among them, the Butler Tire Co. Delegate G. Webb stated that his organization had recently accepted into membership the employees of the Butler Tire Co., New Westminster, and had applied for certification as the bargaining authority. When the employer was notified that the Union had applied for certification he dismissed all of the employees including the foreman from that plant. This matter was brought to the attention of Secretary Gervin who when the matter came before City Council was able to have the matter laid over until the firm was investigated as to the wages and conditions under which work was carried on. Delegate G. Webb reported that the next morning the Butler Tire Co. had rehired the dismissed employees.

### COUNCIL SUPPORTS IDEA OF BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION

Del. Tom Alsbury was authorized to act as the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council's delegate to the proposed Brotherhood Commission. This was done at the invitation of the Vancouver Labor Council (CCL) to take part in the setting up of a permanent Brotherhood Commission to handle cases of racial Discrimination and bring to the public eye acts of intolerance of racial or religious nature.

## British Columbia Payrolls Hit $625,000,000 Mark

**IF MONEY TALKS,** as some say, then the voice of prosperity is heard in our land. For the payroll books of the province tell a story of continued expansion in most industries, pouring out $625,000,000 in wages and salaries.

This round figure does not include farmers' cash income estimated at $142,000,000, nor does it include the income of fishermen.

Where does the money come from? Where does it go? Here's a rough idea, based on 1948, the latest year for which figures have been published by the provincial department of labor. First let's see where we get the $625,000,000 figure. This was the government estimate, which has not yet been revised. It was made up of industrial payroll $426,000,000, plus payroll of $198,600,000 in non-industrial operations.

### How the Figure Is Computed

Industrial payroll is based on reports from close to 9000 reporting firms. Non-industrial payroll is based on reports and estimates for government workers (provincial, federal and municipal), wholesale and retail business employees, railroads and deepsea shipping. "Provincial" payroll here is taken to mean the two combined.

What kinds of people drew the money? Of industrial payroll, the wage earners (including piece workers) received $337,711,818. Clerks, stenographers and salesmen got $50,543,021. Officers, superintendents and managers, received $38,135,367.

Where did the money go?

How was the "Provincial" payroll divided up among the different sections of the province?

Of each payroll dollar Greater Vancouver residents received 42 cents. Vancouver Island received 38 cents. The rest of the mainland received 20 cents.

### Wage Earner's Share 79 Cents

Nine cents went to officers, superintendents and managers. 12 cents went to clerks, stenographers and salesmen. 79 cents went to wage earners.

How big are the big payrolls? More than 50 companies have payrolls exceeding $1,000,000 yearly. Seven companies pay out more than $5,000,000 a year.

More than $100,000 a year: 713 companies.
Between $4 million and $5 million: three companies.
Between $3 million and $4 million: five companies.
Between $2 million and $3 million: 10 companies.
Between $1 million and $2 million: 28 companies.

On top of these huge sums are the payrolls running into $198,000,000 a year, of the municipal, provincial and federal governments, the big retail and wholesale firms, the transcontinental railways, deepsea shipping companies.

### Average Earnings Rising

Average weekly earnings in B.C. industry are edging up to $48 a week.

What are average weekly earnings in primary and secondary industries?

Lumber industries pay averages $49.92 a week.

Best pay is in coal mining: $54.40 a week.

Metal mining: $51.72 weekly.

Pulp and paper manufacturing: $51.25. Public utilties: $47.67. Printing and publishing: $47.80. Oil refining and distributing: $50.38. Construction: $48.23.

### How the Pie Was Cut

How was the payroll pie cut in industry, among wage-earners, white collar workers and bosses?

Here are some representative industries:

In lumber, with a payroll of $105,152,349, officers, superintendents and managers took a cut of $6,849,611. Clerks, stenographers and salesmen were paid $3,822,974. Wage earners received $94,479,764.

Metal mining: Payroll $18,502,053. Of this amount the managerial group received $1,209,219. White collar staff received $2,149,450. Wage earners received $15,143,384.

### Food Products Big Industry

Smelting and concentrating: Payroll, $12,076,589 in only five firms divided as follows: Managers, $539,230. Office and sales staff, $2,551,344. Wage earners, $8,986,015.

Pulp and paper: Payrolls of nine companies totaled $16,644,439, divided as follows: Managers, $1,203,413. Office and sales staff, $1,301,624. Wage earners, $14,159,402.

Printing and publishing: Payrolls of 153 companies add up to $9,297,215. Managers received $1,209,597. Office and sales staff received $2,919,273. Wage earners received $5,168,345.

Food products manufacture by 658 firms rolls up an impressive payroll of $33,082,805. This was divided this way: Managers $3,813,591. Sales and office staff received $4,992,881. Wage earners received $24,276,333.—Vancouver Daily Province.

## New Union Affiliates With T. and L. Council

Ernie Cook, chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Trades and Labor Council, recommended that the application of Local 287 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, for affiliation with the Council be accepted, and was endorsed by the delegates.

This is a new local of the ILGW and will be known as "Knitgoods and Sportswear", Local No. 287.

Officers of the local will include Mr. S. Clarkson as president, Miss Joan Soper as recording Secretary and Anne Marshall as Business Agent.

## BCE Office Employees Join Trades Congress

More than 1000 members of B.C. Electric Office Employees Association have received a charter of affiliation with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Union President Bill Mann said 268 supervisors in the company have been excluded from membership.

Officers elected include Mr. Mann, who succeeds Ted Collins; Al McQueen, vice-president; L. Bradberry, treasurer, and Elsie Barlow, secretary.

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Vancouver, Canada, April, 1950


## It's Time To Start Slum Clearance

THE HOUSING PROJECT recommended by Professor Leonard C. Marsh, as a result of a three-year survey of a forty-block area of slums, will undoubtedly be approved by thousands of Vancouver citizens.

The project, however, depends entirely upon the City Council, and as in the past, the reaction of several aldermen is definitely in opposition. One of the weakest arguments coming from them is that present tenants would not be able to find places to reside, while some of the area is being rebuilt.

That, along with many other barren statements, were made in the City Council before the last war, when the late Alderman Corry gathered considerable data in an effort to have the slums cleared and decent apartment blocks built. Had a start been made on such a project then many squalid areas might have been eliminated and some really low-rental housing in operation by now.

Professor Marsh points out that provision has been made for financial assistance from the Federal and Provincial Governments, hence such a project depends entirely upon the City Council taking the initial action. Slum clearance—the first part of any low-rental housing project—must have the expropriation powers of the City Council, but the actual housing project can be carried on without any large direct financial outlay by the Council.

If a slum clearance and low-rental housing project was launched by the City of Vancouver, thousands of citizens would undoubtedly lend financial, moral and other support to the scheme. Short term bonds, such as were used to build the City Hall, would be taken up fast, and many other forms of assistance could be obtained, just as soon as the City Council decided to take up the project.

Costs of labor and material are very much higher than they were before the last war, when the job should have been started, and there is no immediate prospects of lower costs. But if the City Council really went into the plan in a big way, such as the elimination of the forty blocks of slums, over a period of several years, organized building tradesmen might be induced to donate a lot of free labor on apartment block projects in order to help the low-rental project.

Building materials might be obtained at manufacturers' prices, plus transportation charges. Architects and superintendents' services might also be obtained without cost or at a low fee. There are thousands of people in this city who are donating time and labor to community, social and fraternal undertakings every day in the year, and if the City Council asked for this kind of help, there undoubtedly would be a ready and enthusiastic response.

If a start could be made on one block, with a two-story apartment covering the entire block, and composed of two (bachelor), three and four-room suites, with an open playground centre, it could absorb the tenants in at least three other slum blocks in the area.

While apartment blocks would lend itself more readily to low-rental housing, the area could be interspersed with blocks of individual housing units, duplexes or terraces. If arrangements could be made to obtain building materials and supplies from manufacturers, many contractors could be found to construct these places at a price that would also lend itself to low-rental housing.

The area surveyed by Professor Marsh is in a location where tenants could be readily obtained, hence there would not be any great loss to the city in having untenanted houses or suites. As a matter of fact, many large insurance companies built series of blocks of apartment houses in several cities of the United States, starting many years ago, and found them one of their best investments because the suites were always readily rented. Of course, they found that it was necessary to give the tenants proper service as far as maintenance of the property was concerned, and they found that by giving this service the suites were always in constant demand by would-be tenants.

Taking all these things into consideration, it is our opinion that the City Council should not have to be prodded into taking on this slum clearance and low-rental housing project. But judging by the apathy displayed by previous City Councils, it may still be necessary for union, social and fraternal organizations to write the City Council urging immediate action on such a project.—H. W. W.

## Not Too Old at 65

NEW EVIDENCE of the undesirability of employers retiring workers without exception at 65 (an increasing practice) is brought out in the current Social Security Bulletin. The Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance interviewed 4,491 of its beneficiaries in their homes in 19 cities. The first of the conclusions recorded is this:

Few elderly workers left the labor market because they wanted to. It was only when they were ill or laid off by their employers that most of them applied for social security benefits. For these men and women, old-age benefits were in effect disability or unemployment benefits.

Further the report notes:

Fifty-four percent of the male and 42 percent of the female primary beneficiaries in all the surveys combined had lost their jobs in covered employment on the initiative of their employers. Most of the others had quit for health reasons. Only about 5 percent of the men and women had retired voluntarily, and a fifth of these had returned to work.

Those who worked after becoming entitled to the old-age insurance usually did so because their retirement incomes were inadequate, the government's interviewers found. Most beneficiaries could not live at a maintenance level on their retirement income and their assets. Few beneficiaries of any type had real economic security.

Business is paying a high cost in retiring many of its people at 65, for the skills they represent are thereby wasted. The length of life and the duration of the productive years in the United States are constantly increasing.

Fixing the retirement age arbitrarily at 65 is in many cases thoughtless and poor judgment. The man and woman of 65 who can still do a first-class job, neither in his old position or a new one, has value to his employer and deserves better than being automatically cast aside.—The Christian Science Monitor.

## Four and One-half P.C. For Labor Temple Loan

In order to clear up the balance of $25,000 owing to the builders of the Labor Temple, Labor Headquarters Limited are offering unions 4½% on monies loaned for this purpose, but you will have to act fast as this offer will close May 15th.

This loan will be secured on the same conditions as the 3% debentures recently sold to unions.

Union officers and members are being asked to act immediately on this proposition, so that the debt can be cleared up. Address your communications to Labor Headquarters Ltd., Labor Temple, Vancouver, B.C.

## Boys' Club Association Speaker to be Heard

Endorsation was given to a request from the Vancouver Boys' Club Association, to address the Council delegates at its next meeting. The Boys' Club movement, especially in the United States, has been endorsed and given warm support of the Trade Union movement. The clubs provide constructive activities in health, physical training and vocational skills.

At the request of Truck Drivers Union No. 31, Del George Johnston, reported that the Grievance Committee had approved placing the firm of Gordon Young (B.C.) Ltd. on the "We Do Not Patronize" list of the Council.

## Political Education—How They Voted

Following is the first list compiled by the Political Education Committee of the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council. It describes how British Columbia Members of Parliament voted on the following questions in parliament.

A. Motion to remove the Means Test (Sept. 19,1949).
B. Bill to re-establish railway pension rights lost by strike (Oct. 3, 1949).
C. Bill to make union dues deductable for income tax purposes (Nov. 7, 1949).

| MEMBER AND CONSTITUENCY | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| T. H. Goode L (Burnaby-Richmond) | against | against | against |
| W. M. Mott L (New Westminster) | | | absent |
| J. L. MacDougall L (Van.- Burrard) | against | against | absent |
| R. O. Campney L (Vancouver-Centre) | against | against | against |
| A. MacInnis CCF (Vancouver East) | FOR | FOR | FOR |
| H. Green PC (Vancouver Quadra) | FOR | FOR | FOR |
| A. Laing L (Vancouver South) | against | against | against |
| R. W. Mayhew L (Victoria) | against | against | against |
| O. L. Jones CCF (Yale) | FOR | FOR | FOR |
| J. Sinclair L (Coast-Capilano) | against | against | against |
| J. L. Gibson Ind. (Comox-Alberni) | against | FOR | FOR |
| G. A. Cruickshank L (Fraser Valley) | against | against | against |
| E. D. Fulton PC (Kamloops) | absent | FOR | absent |
| J. A. Byrne L (Kootenay East) | against | against | against |
| H. W. Herridge CCF (Kootenay West) | FOR | FOR | FOR |
| G. R. Pearkes PC (Nanaimo) | FOR | FOR | FOR |

## The All-Canadian Gas Pipe Line

Members of Parliament have replied as indicated below to our request for support for an all-Canadian Route for the proposed natural gas pipeline:

A. Laing L (Vancouver-South)....not clearly stated.
E. D. Fulton PC (Kamloops)....favorable.
J. L. MacDougall L (Van.-Burrard)....says matter rest with Board of Transport Commissioners.
A. MacInnis CCF (Vancouver East)....favorable.
G. R. Pearkes PC (Nanaimo)....favorable.
O. L. Jones CCF (Yale)....favorable.
T. H. Goode L (Burnaby-Richmond....favorable.
H. W. Herridge CCF (Kootenay West)....favorable.
J. L. Gibson Ind. (Comox-Alberni)....favorable.

L—Liberal PC—Progressive Conservation Ind.—Independent
CCF—Co-operative Commonwealth Federation

## Canadian Gas-Oil Developents Support Construction Trades

MONTREAL—Although preliminary surveys indicate that prospects are bright for private construction in 1950 the federal government intends to go on maintaining a backlog of postponable public projects to be available as a "floor" whenever required, Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, told delegates to the 32nd annual meeting of the Canadian Construction Association at the annual dinner here last month. "In looking to the future," Mr. St. Laurent continued, "everyone counts upon the construction industry to play its full part in maintaining a high level of employment throughout the country. But it would be wrong to assume that the construction industry alone can be an adequate instrument to stabilize the whole economy. I don't believe the industry itself would want to try to meet all employment problems with additional construction programs. If we tried that policy, the result would be great swings in construction activity. What we should try to do is to pursue public construction policies which will keep the industry relatively stable and maintain a high level of employment in construction. We must try to direct all our economics in such a way as to create conditions in which businessmen, builders, contractors, workers, in fact all our people, are encouraged to make their most useful contribution to the activity of the whole community.

"Canada has greater potential wealth per person than any other country," Mr. St. Laurent said. "Much of that wealth, and I believe most of it," he continued, "remains to be developed and development means construction. That is why I believe construction will long remain the watchword of the Canadian nation.

"Canadians can best develop our resources and build up our national economy by giving the widest possible scope to private endeavour." The prime minister was "more convinced than ever" that the skill, ingenuity and foresight of Canadians as individuals will bring the most rapid and the most effective development of this country. Although the nation's postwar housing program could well stand international comparison, Mr. St. Laurent commented that the nation's greatest need "is still for low-priced houses which can be obtained for a low rental. By using material in new ways and by constantly seeking for better methods of construction," he felt that costs, always the big thing for prospective owners, could be kept "within manageable proportions."

In thanking the prime minister for "a very capable graphic picture of what the government is doing in the matter of national economy," Albert Deschamps, a past president of the Canadian Construction Association, voiced the opinion of all delegates when he declared that "the destinies of our country could not be in better hands."

## Union Agreements for Alberta Gas Pipelines

First major pipeline project-agreement between labor and management in Canada was signed in Edmonton recently.

The agreement, signed by representatives of three international unions and an official of the U.S. "Bechtel Interests" covers every phase of labor involved in the Edmonton-Regina section of the interprovincial oil pipe line from Edmonton to Superior, Wisconsin.

**Contract**

The Canadian Bechtel Ltd., subsidiary of the U.S. Bechtel Interests has the contract for laying the pipe.

Signing of the agreement means that every man who works on the pipeline laying must be a paid-up member of his respective union and "continue to be so," labor leaders say.

**Major Gain**

The agreements, extensions of those already existing in the U.S., represent a major gain for Canadian labor, union officials stated.

Cliff Priestley, business representative of Local 488 of the plumbers' union, and president of the Building Trades Council in Edmonton, signed the agreement for the plumbers.

The wage scale provides $1.75 per hour journeymen, $2 per hour for foremen. $1.25 for helper apprentices.

The agreement for the engineers was signed by E. Wark, Canadian representative for the international union. The local union is 995.

Terms are: $1.75 for top operators, down to $1.20 for oilers, firemen and assistants.

The laborers' agreement was signed by Carl Berg, secretary treasurer of Local 92 and vice-president of the Trades and Labor Congress. The laborers won a minimum rate of 90 cents per hour for semi-skilled workers.

All agreements had time and half for overtime clauses and double pay for work on eight statutory holidays.

Berg said the 90-cent an hour rate for laborers was a "good increase" over the 65 cents an hour "prevailing for similar work at the present time."—The (Calgary) Call.

## Best Power Station Yet

The new 40,000-kilowatt mercury-steam Schiller Station at Portsmouth, built by the Public Service Co. of New Hampshire for $13 million, is said to produce more power per pound of fuel than any other ever built.

## City Living Cost Climbs 1.8 Points

Vancouver's cost of living climbed another 1.8 points in February.

Higher food prices and rent increases were mainly responsible for the jump from 163.4 to 165.2. The index is based on August 1939, as 100.

Biggest increase was recorded in Toronto, up 3.1 over January. Winnipeg's index rose 2.5, Halifax and Montreal 1.8, Saint John 1.7, Edmonton 1.4 and Saskatoon .9.

Here are the comparative figures for the regional index by cities:

| | Feb. 1949 | Jan. 1950 | Feb. 1950 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Halifax | 152.3 | 153.3 | 155.0 |
| Saint John | 155.8 | 157.8 | 159.5 |
| Montreal | 162.0 | 164.2 | 166.0 |
| Toronto | 154.6 | 157.6 | 160.7 |
| Winnipeg | 153.8 | 156.3 | 158.8 |
| Saskatoon | 161.6 | 163.6 | 164.5 |
| Edmonton | 154.2 | 158.1 | 159.5 |
| Vancouver | 160.7 | 163.4 | 165.2 |
| Dominion | 157.9 | 160.3 | 162.4 |

The city indexes show changes in living costs for each city and compare the extent of the rise and fall between cities. They do not compare the actual level of living costs.

## Alberta Construction Work May Reach $40,000,000

Construction for 1950 in Calgary and district as far north as Red Deer, west to the Rockies, south to Claresholm and east to the border, will no doubt this year reach the $40,000,000 figure, which is far larger than the 1949 total. With that amount of construction in the future, prospects of good employment for the next year is a certainty.—The Call, Calgary.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES**

Ottawa.—Extension of Unemployment Insurance benefits and coverage to temporary or casual employees working for hospitals or other charitable institutions, which are not operated for gain, and employed on construction, renovation or repairs, has been announced by the Unemployment Insurance Commission. This change in the regulations removes the anomaly under which persons working for contractors on such work for such institutions have been covered while similar persons working on similar work for the same institutions were excepted from Unemployment Insurance coverage and benefits. All will now be insurable.


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# Vancouver Civic Employees and The Union Shop

**VANCOUVER'S 3,500 CIVIC EMPLOYEES** are fighting for the union shop, and the first barrier they have to smash through is a legal barrier.

In 1943, the Vancouver Civic Federation bargained for the outside workers, firemen and city hall staff, with support of the police. They were turned down on the union shop question. Why? Because the City Council maintained that the City Charter had to be amended by the Provincial Legislature before the City could enter into Union Shop Agreements. This has been their position ever since.

But Mr. G. E. McGrosson, corporation Counsel for the City of Vancouver from 1919 to 1934, had a different idea when he was engaged by the Vancouver Civic Federation in 1943. This is the considered opinion of this eminent lawyer, the man who looked after the City's legal business for 15 years:

"Although there is no power in the City Charter expressly dealing with this particular subject matter, the council enjoys plenary managerial powers, over terms and conditions of employment; and in view of the trend of modern legislation, I would not consider that principle of collective bargaining would be now deemed to be an irrational or illegal interference with any private rights of the employees. Granting therefore, the validity of the principle of collective bargaining, the implementing proposal embodied in your request would seem to be only a question of degree, and one aimed at carrying the principle to the full complement of its efficacy. I am of the opinion therefore, that the matter is within the powers of the Council; and merely becomes a matter of policy—whether the Council deems it expedient to adopt."

There, in a very few words, you have the position of Vancouver's civic employees: a charter amendment is unnecessary.

However, when the City Council applied to the provincial legislature for enabling legislation, in 1949 and 1950, the civic employees supported the Council. But in both cases, the proposed emendment to permit the City to enter into the Union Shop Agreement was thrown out the window.

JACK PHILLIPS
Secretary Civic Employees Union

Now, outside workers, organized in the Vancouver Civic Employees' Union, Local 28, (Chartered by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada) are forcing a show-down.

A Government Conciliation Board has been set up to deal with the Union's demands for 1950. The demands are:

12 cents an hour across the board;
The Union Shop;
Wider Pension Coverage;
Minor Contract Revisions.

The terms of reference laid down for the Conciliation Board include the question of the Union Shop. The representative of the City—the official who will conduct their case before the Board is expected to produce legal arguments to prove that the Board is not competent to deal with this question. Most likely they will bring in the old argument of the City Charter and its limitations.

The position of Local 28 can be summed up as follows:

The City and the Union bargain under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. How can the City maintain that every section of the Act applies to them with the exception of the one that permits an employer and his employees to enter into union shop agreements? How can a civic corporation be covered by a province-wide statute, and still have the right to pick which sections shall not apply to them?

Can the union seek an injunction to be free of all the restraints and penalties of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, on the grounds that the logical outcome of union recognition—full union security—is denied to them by law?

The Union has applied to the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council for financial assistance to meet the cost of legal counsel. As a result, the Trades Council has agreed to engage one of the best known lawyers in the City, to handle the Union's case for the Union shop.

Local 28 has more than 90% of the City's outside workers in their union, on a basis of voluntary recruitment. We are not fighting for the union shop because we want to guarantee the treasury a steady income, or make the work less strenuous for the officers.

We are fighting for the Union Shop because we believe in the principle of 100% union membership. Because we believe that a handful of free-riders must either be compelled to support their fellow workers, or else forfeit the benefits won by their brothers through union organization.

Above all, we are fighting for a sacred principle. The union shop in North America has traditionally taken the form of a contract provision agreed to between organized workmen and the employer. The laws of British Columbia and the laws of Canada have been changed by the sacrifice of workingmen, in order to permit union men to enjoy this security.

Vancouver Civic Employees refuse to stand by, shouting praises for democracy. They are in the fight to win democracy, and one of their first targets is the union shop.

The cry that we are trying to tell the City Council who they can hire, and they who can't, is a false cry. All that we ask is that a man should join his union after a stimulated period of employment.

Three Vancouver aldermen are on the Board of Directors of the Vancouver General Hospital. The lay employees of this hospital enjoy the Union Shop. Why not the lay employees of the City of Vancouver?

## Illinois Jobless Get $25 a Week

Chicago.—While unemployment is rising and unemployment compensation benefits are increasing in Illinois, the cost to employers who contribute to the unemployment compensation fund is going down instead of up.

The paradox is only temporary however.

What is happening is that both employers and jobless workers are reaping the benefit of an unemployment compensation fund built up during the post-war high industrial employment.

Under a new amendment to the Unemployment Compensation Act, the maximum weekly benefit payable to a jobless worker in Illinois went up April 1 from $20 to $25.

Because contribution rates are shrinking while benefits expand, the outgo from the unemployment compensation fund will exceed income by about $70,000,000 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1950, according to Frank Annunzio, state labor director.

The law fixes the maximum safety level of the unemployment trust fund at $435,000,000. When reserves exceed that amount, employers are given reductions in their contribution rates, if they qualify for it by their contributions over a 5-year period.

Since 1945, the fund has been well over $435,000,000. On June 30, 1949 the computation date for 1950 rates it stood at $501,000,000. As of January 31, 1950, it was $468,000,000. If it goes below $435,000,000 by next June 30, there won't be any further reduction in contribution rates. If it goes too low, there may be a raise.

## Teamsters Win Wage Increases

Increases in hourly rates and mileage allowances negotiated in 1949 affected more than 215,000 driver, helpers and other workers in general local and over-the-road trucking, the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced this week in Washington.

Most of these workers received 10 cents on hour or more, according to the Bureau's review of all settlements invo.ving 200 or more workers coming to its attention during the year from press reports and other sources.

New or additional employer contributions to union health and welfare plans also figured prominently in 1949 settlements. Under terms of the settlements covered, about half of the workers could look forward to another increase in 1950 or early 1951.

The average increase put into effect in 1949 amounted to approximately 11½ cents an hour.

The range of hourly increases estimated where changes in mileage allowances were involved, is as follows:

About 27,700 workers—these are figures based on employment as stated by the associations or the unions invovled in the settlement—received increases of 16 cents or more.

Approximately 12,500 received increases of from 14 to 15.9 cents; 68,000 from 12 to 13.9 cents; 54,500 from 10 to 11.9 cents; 22,300 from 8 to 9.9 cents; 24,000 from 6 to 7.9 cents; and 9,000 received increases of less than 6 cents an hour.

## Protest Killing

Washington.—The AFL formally protested to the International Labor Organization at the March 23 assassination of Luis Negreiros, secretary of the Peruvian Confederation of Labor.

AFL International Representative George P Delaney telegraphed ILO Director General David Morse that the "ILO protest strongly such action to the Peruvian government."

"Workers of American hemisphere demand speedy action to curtail such violations of human rights and freedom of association." Mr. Delaney said. "The AFL suggests that this matter be called to the attention of the ILO Commission on Violation of Trade Union Rights."

"Look here, mister," snarled the customs officer. "you told me there was nothing in the suitcase but clothing, and I found a bottle of whiskey!"

"Sure," replied the accused, "that's my nightcap."


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# Opposition Rips Into Government In Budget Debate

**FAINT PRAISE AND MUCH CRITICISM** from the opposition parties marked the opening debate in the Houss of Commons on the budget brought down by Finance Minister Douglas Abbott.

The discussion is to be resumed sometime next week. Before the wind-up comes, a series of votes will have to be taken as an amendment and a sub-amendment have both been moved to the government's main motion for adoption of the budget.

Through its financial critic, James M. MacDonnell from Toronto, the Progressive Conservative party has put forward an amendment declaring that the government's policies make higher taxation inevitable; that there has been no adequate attempt to eliminate extravagance and avoid unnecessary expenditure; and that no provision has been made for a program of national development, "without which there can be no hope of a reduction of taxation and the present high cost of living."

**C.C.F. Sub-Amendment**

The C.C.F. Party, through Leader M. J. Colwell, has moved a sub-amendment "regretting" that the government's policies indicate it is prepared to accept the present level of production as adequate for this country and as placing a limit on the services and security to be provided for Canadians.

The sub-amendment "regets" also that no provision is made for increased national production through economic planning, public control of investment, public ownership of monopolisitc industries, and the full and proper use of Canadian resources, "so as to ensure a rising standard of living and comprehensive social security."

The opening "shots" from the opposition parties could be summarized this way. Social Credit Leader Solon Low complimented Abbott on the accuracy of his financial forecasts as shown by past budgets. The Progressive Conservatives came out bluntly for a greater stimulation of private enterprise. The C.C.F. party came out just as bluntly for more Socialism, for a greater extension of public ownership in the major industries.

**Barter Deals**

As the "lead off" man in the debate, MacDonnell stated that governments by exchange and other controls are forcing business into barter deals. It was no wonder, he said, that people are arguing in favor of barter but this only means "stepping back toward the primitive conditions from which we emerged centuries ago."

The whole economic system and international trading were built up "in a world of freedom." Today every transaction is u nder control of governments, and instead of regarding this condition as "unnatural and temporary," there is "the most complacent and complaisant attitude" by those in power.

MacDonnell argued for a gradual reduction and elimination of ex change control. He called for an end to "our watchful waiting" and demanded that Canada take a lead in taking the shackles off business and trade. "If we had convertibility, that means we could spend anywhere the money received for goods sold anywhere," MacDonnell asserted. "That would mean, of course, that there would be no more dollar problem. I don't deny that there would be some temporary disturbance in making adjustments."

**"Float With Wind"**

Private international investment he declared "blossoms freely" when currencies are free. It shrivels under [illegible] operating freely today could do wonders to improve the trade situation.

Coldwell's main critism of the budget was that the Canadian government is prepared to accept "whatever levels of production, employment and economic activity the uncontrolled, undirected, unplanned operation of the private enterprise system may bring." He said the government is content to "float with the winds."

Continuing, Coldwell stated the government should be prepared to accept responsibility for the maintenance of agricultural prosperity and full employment. This required, he said, economic planning.

**Plan the Economy**

"Erratic fluctuation" of private capital is a prime cause of boom and depression, Coldwell claimed. It is the task of the government, he argued. to so plan the economy that the amount of spending by government, by business and by consumers is in the aggregate sufficient to buy all that can be produced.

It should be recognized that the world is witnessing a transition from an economy of private production for gain to one of "public enterprise for the common good," Coldwell went on. Time, he warned, may not be on the side of the slow-moving democracies.

Low called for a national survey commission to investigate the development and distribution of national production. The Federal sales tax should have been abolished. His proposed survey commission, Low stated, should be given the duty of investigating the country's real and potential capacity and the relationship between national income and gross national production.

Low suggested a group of at least 40 technicians, engineers, economists and business men, who would be given a free hand to investigate and report on the "true state of affairs within our country."

---

The local union with the longest continuous history in Canada is the Toronto Typographical Union, No. 91. The first Printer's Society was formed in Toronto in 1832. In 1866 this Society joined the National Typographical Union as local 91. The name of the Union was changed to International in 1868.

---

Locals 3130 and 3135, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, have gained hospitalization protection, a bonus plan and other benefits in negotiations with the Plywoods Plastic Corporation, Hampton, S.C.

"The union committee to see you, J.B., but I don't think you'll cow them with that bull!"

**A GOOD TURNER**

A woman approached the Pearly Gates and spoke to St. Peter.

"Do you know if my husband is here? His name is Smith."

"Lady, we have lots of them here. You'll have to be more specific."

"Joe Smith."

"Lotsa those too. You'll have to have more identification."

"Well( when he died he said that if I ever was untrue to him, he'd turn over in his grave."

"Oh, you mean 'Pinwheel Smith'."

---

'Tis done beneath the mistletoe,
'Tis done beneath the rose,
But the proper place to kiss,
you know,
Is just beneath the nose.

---

A little boy whose grandmother had just died wrote and posted the following letter: "Dear Angels: We have sent you Grandma. Please give her a harp or violin to play, as she is shortwinded and can't blow a trumpet."

---

Daughter: "I found a horsehoe this morning."

Mother: "Do you know what that means?"

Daughter: "Yes. It means that some poor horse is running around in his stocking feet."

---

Joe: "The butter in this boarding house is so strong it can walk right over to the coffee and say, 'How do you do?"

Bill: "Yes, but the coffee is too weak to answer."

---

Bill: "I've eaten beef all my life and now I'm as strong as a bull."

Will: "That's funny. I've eaten fish all my life, and I can't swim a stroke."

---

All the bone in some folks' spinal columns seems to be lumped at the top!

---

Some folks spend a year trying to [illegible] talk, and the next [illegible] get her to keep quiet.

---

When a young fellow tells a girl he can't do enough for her—maybe he's right!

---

Flattery is telling the other man exactly what he thinks of himself.

---

Doctor: "Your cough sounds better this morning."

Patient: "It should. I've been practicing all night."

---

Bill Black says that rising before dawn these crisp mornings fills one with vim, vigor, bliss and vinegar.

---

Something good from Florida: they have adopted a slogan to help prevent forest fires — "Chaperone your cigarettes, don't let them go out alone."

---

The gob, looking for excitement and adventure, said, "Let's get married or something." But gal, more cautious, answered, "We will get married or nothing."

---

The young wife said: "Oh, John, the baby has swallowed the matches. What'll I do?"

Her hubby nonchalantly replied: "Here, use my cigarette lighter."

---

Men don't throw glances
At girls who wear pantses,
Or take out in taxis
The ones who wear slackses.
It seems to offend them,
That gals have out-menned them,
So, as gin should have lemon in,

---

A women may don riding clothes and not go riding; she may put on a bathing suit and not go in the water; but when she gets into a wedding gown she means business.

---

Little Willie on the run,
Slipped and dropped a loaded gun.
Soon they came and picked up Willie.
The funeral, it was a dilly.

---

As he regained consciousness after his operation the room seemed very dark, so he asked, "Why are all the blinds down, Doc?"

The doctor answered, "Well you see, there's a fire across the street. I didn't want you to awake, see the blaze, and think the operation was a failure."

---

Old Lady: "I think it's wonderful how the filling station people know just where to set up pumps and get gasoline."

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"How come you are always so busy?" the taxi driver was asked.

"Well, it's like this: I leave the rear door open and an empty purse lying on the floor. You'd be surprised how many people hop in for short distances."

# Start Public Works Program At Once, Bengough Demands

**OTTAWA.—NO FURTHER TIME SHOULD BE LOST** in starting public works projects as the unemployment situation in Canada is serious and dangerous, Percy R. Bengough, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, declared here recently.

Bengough was joined in this reiterated demand by the Canadian Congress of Labor, prompted by the most recent official government figures placing the number of job-seeking Canadians at about the 400,000 mark. Several months ago, the two organizations issued a joint statement calling upon the Federal government to get going on its "shelf" of public works for an unemployment crisis.

"Unemployment is serious in Canada," Bengough declared. "We placed our views before the government months ago and warned them of the danger, but it does not seem to register."

**Danger of "Snowballing"**

With so many out of work for so long, period, it causes a serious reduction in the country's buying power. "There is a very serious danger of this snowballing and creating worse conditions," Bengough added. A properly executed program of public works would benefit not only the unemployed but the "general economy of the country as a whole," Bengough asserted. Such jobs as roads and dams, when completed, would "bring in new revenue and enhance the value of the country."

Bengough continued: "The government has said that it had a shelf of public work schemes on which to draw in just such times as these, but it is doing nothing about it. I think the people generally are disappointed. The government's actions are much different from its pre-election promises.

"There are some 400,000 people out of work in Canada. Imagine what a holler there would be if one-tenth of these men were out on strike. The number of man hours lost because of unemployment represents a terrific wastage in a country that needs so much development.

"There is no doubt as to the seriousness of the situation and it is impossible to forecast what the level of unemployment will be during the peak employment period this summer."

**More Than Seasonal**

Speaking for the C.C.L. Pat Conroy, secretary-treasurer, declared his organization is satisfied the present situation is more than seasonal unemployment. Unless something is done and done fast a permanent trend toward unemployment is setting in. The only sound thing to be done is to start on the public work projects.

It is unsound, Conroy stated, for the government to argue that p ublic work projects are not needed at this time because the construction industry is operating at a high level. There has been no concentration on the housing problem which is worse now tratе on biulding secondary industrie than it ever was. Employment would be eased by a major housing program. In addition public work programs should be designed to concentrate on building secondary industries in areas of chronic unemployment, like the Maritime provinces.

"The government's own figures back our contention that immediate action is necessary," Conroy asserted.

The Labor Department's announcement this week said that the number of persons seeking jobs through the National Employment Service numbered 375,000 as of March 16. This was an increase of 1,1000 from the week before and practically 50 percent greater than at the same time last year. Of course, all those out of work have not registered with the Employment Service.

## Paid Holidays

Under the above heading, the Windsor Star had the following to say editorially recently:

"Often some of us are apt to think progress moves but slowly, often impeded and in a desultory manner. Yet if we glance back, in almost any field of endeavour, we are surprised to see how far we have moved forward in the same in a couple of short decades.

"It was not so long ago since paid holidays didn't exist. Later they were the prerequisite of a favoured few. Yet now they are accepted as a general pattern in industry, business and commerce. At first they were but for a week, now they are more generally for two weeks, and, in some instances, even three.

"We note that in the United Kingdom 20,000,000 workers are now getting vacations with pay, and on this continent the number would be proportionate, or even greater. And this has affected far more than the employers and employees concerned. It is responsible for the creation of the 'holiday industry' which, especially in such countries as Canada, has become a major industry. This, in turn, gives employment and pay to tens of thousands of people, in the resort areas, in hotels and restaurants, in sale of gasoline and, working back through them, to other industries.

"Where once holidays with pay was a revolutionary idea, now it is an accepted way of life. Existing industries survived it, and new ones were established."

---

Local 66, Laundry Workers, Boston, has won wage increases, five paid holidays and two weeks' vacation with pay for 600 members employed by major laundries and linen suppliers in the Massachusetts capital.

---

Local 298, Chemical Workers, has secured increases in wage rates ranging upward to 15 cents an hour for members employed at the Public Service Company, Durham, N.C.

---

Local 138, Teamsters, New York, has gained a general wage increase, insurance and welfare benefits and other improvements for 1,000 workers in accords recently reached with the Greater New York Wholesale Grocers Association, Krasdale Associates, Inc., and Bernice Foods, Inc.

## Agreement Averts Taxi Drivers Strike

An eleventh hour agreement with the Toronto Local of Teamsters narrowly averted a strike recently. The agreement was signed between the Union and the DeLuxe Taxi Co.

The new contract boosted from 33 1/3% to 35% commissions on fares collected in excess of $96 per week. It also provided a commission which was not formerly granted, of 35% gross fares collected between $90 and $96 a week, with the provision, however, that the drivers collectively average $90 or over per week. All other contract clauses including the basic wage rate of $32 per week were retained in the new agreement.

The drivers work a 48-hour work week and an attempt to have this reduced to forty hours was not successful.

The Teamsters' Local is negotiating with twenty other companies in Toronto and district at present.

## Alberta Carpenters Form District Council

Calgary.—At a conference held in Calgary recently delegates from all carpenters locals in Alberta decided to form a new District Council and request their International Headquarters to recognize the new district. The new district would be known as District 8 and would include carpenters in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon, and North West Territories. Currently District 7 of the carpenters includes all carpenters in Canada with the exception of British Columbia, who belong to District 6.

A resolution was adopted at the conference asking that the Alberta construction industry be governed by a separate section of the Alberta Labor Act so that certification of construction unions could be on an industry wide basis rather than with individual employers. The Council also decided to seek affiliation with The Alberta Federation of Labor and will hold their annual meeting from now on at the same time as the Federation holds its convention.

Brother M. O. Charlton of Calgary was elected President of the new Council and other officers elected were: W. R. McCuaig, Lethbridge, Vice-President; R. A. Epkin, Edmonton, Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Don Vath of Lethbridge, Ken Peckham of Calgary and Jack Craig of Edmonton were elected to the Council's executive board.

**POLICE YOUR WORDS**

Prejudice is a miserable weed. Once it gets started, it's hard to uproot.

Best way to keep it out of your yard is to police your words. Parents especially, when speaking of others, be sure you don't belittle them because of race or religion. Your children will repeat what you say, be guided by it.

## Big "Tote" Job For Hume and Rumble

Contracts to install and operate the "Bell Punch Tote" to be used at Lansdowne Race Track, have been awarded to Hume & Rumble Limited of Vancouver. This equipment, which is made in England, totalizes electrically all sales made and posts the totals, odds, pay-off, etc., on a large annunciator board in the center field. Installation and operation of the apparatus will be under the direction of Mr. Hume. Sixty machines called TIMS, print tickets as each sale is made and the sale is recorded electrically in a central control room. The totals, odds, etc., are then flashed to the infield board where the figures appear in lights. The infield board uses approximately 5000 lamps and has 2500 wires leading to it. The total job will require approximately 16,000 man hours work. The Lansdowne installation is the first in Western Canada and will likely be the forerunner of a series of five in the west. Hume & Rumble Limited has also contracted to operate this apparatus in each case for 10 years.

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In California the Painters Union has obtained a 12½-cent hourly wage increase, a health and hospital plan and other benefits in an agreement with the painting and decorating contractors covering San Francisco and Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

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Local 7, Printing Pressman and Assistants, Milwaukee, has secured wage boosts ranging from 5 to 10 cents an hour in contract with the Employing Printers Association and the Franklin Association of Printers.

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Local 3146, Brotherhood of Carpenters, has secured a six paid holidays and other benefits in a contract signed with the Willett Furniture Manufacturing Company, Louisville, Ky.

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Local 655, Retail Clerks, St. Louis, procurred wage increases ranging from $1.50 to $5 weekly in a renewal contract with the Kroger stores and the Ozark Paint stores.

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Local 128, Taxicab Drivers, has won pensions and other benefits in Pittsburgh.

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**END OF THE LINE**

A gentleman slipped on the stair of a subway and started to slide down to the bottom. Half-way down, he collided with a lady, knocking her down, and the two continued their way to the lower landing.

After they had reached the bottom, the lady, still dazed, continued to sit on the gentleman's chest. Looking up at her, he finally said politely, "Madam, I'm sorry, but this is as far as I go."

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## Spring Is Here -- Time To Fix Things

Shellac, available at any local paint store, is a valuable household aid. Those housewives and helpful husbands who used it during spring cleaning a year ago will find their annual chore that much easier this season.

To keep dirt from accumulating in corners, shellac the baseboards in your rooms. Not only will this make sweeping easier, but it will make washing the baseboards a relatively simple task. Running a rag over their surface from time to time will do the job with energy expended kept at a minimum.

Applying shellac to the panel boards rimming your ceilings will act as a defence against the accumulation of ugly cobwebs. To keep the boards spic and span, tie a wet rag to the end of a broom handle and rub it around the edges of the ceiling.

You can also use shellac to fix those unsightly nicks and scratches which appear on furniutre as a result of normal wear and tear. First darken them with wood stain until they are as close to the original color as possible; then apply white shellac to the scratches, one coat at a time until they are filled.

If the linoleum in your kitchen or bathroom is beginning to crack, run a strip of celophane tape down the full length of the crack and then shellac the tape. The shellac coating will prevent dirt from seeping through and prevent tripping as well.

There are several other special uses for shellac—and many more will no doubt occur to you.

To keep your favorite cook book from staining, paint both covers with a thin coating of shellac. Once the book dries, a damp cloth will keep it clean.

You can prolong the life of an ordinary kitchen tray several times over by coating it with shellac. It will be much easier to keep clean. But that's not all. Spilled liquids will leave no odor on it.

To make your child's checkerboard far more durable, shellac it with a couple of coats. Give the same treatment to his cardboard puzzles and other board games. They'll look new for a much longer period.

## Yep, Labor Is A Monopoly

The charge that organized labor is becoming monopolistic and therefore needs the same type of regulation that is supposed to govern, large corporations, is ridiculous, though partly true. The monopolistic tendencies of LABOR are becoming terrible. To cite only a few of the things in life over which LABOR exercises a complete monopoly will be interesting.

**Labor has a complete monopoly** on all the ramshackle houses in the slums of all great cities. Those having only reasonable wealth would consider living in such shacks abominable. Labor MUST live in these slums because of the inadequate wages they receive from greedy, wealthy employers.

**Labor has a complete monopoly** on every room in the poorhouses of our nation. Labor toils hard to eke out an existence and to accumulate profit for the adsentee wealthy owners in industry who own their jobs. Labor is too old to toil after the age of 50, then a very benevolent society gives labor an alms house to share with none other except those who have earned their living by the sweat of their brow and who have been beaten badly by the machine.

**Labor has a complete monopoly** in finding it impossible to give all of their children a university education. Usually Mary has to go to work in the factory and John has to take a job in the mines so that Mother can have a few extra dollars to keep the little home together.

**Labor has a complete monopoly,** when ill, on the wards in too many unkempt city hospitals. The wealthy go to private institutions with trained nurses constantly at their beck and call.

**Labor, especially black labor, has a complete monopoly** on ignorance because their white "masters" still refuse to furnish universities or schools for them to attend in some of our sovereign states.

**Labor has nearly a complete monopoly** on the right to go to war, to fight and die to save the world until the next generation of workers can develop so that another war can be fought and won.

**Labor has a complete monopoly** to suffer and to die for lack of proper medical attention because of the high fees of professional physcians. A trip to the good doctor's office EVERY DAY at a cost of $3 a throw strains the purse strings too greatly and so poor Mom just suffers it out and too often her reward is a shroud.

**Labor has a complete monopoly** on job fear and debt; a complete monopoly on a million rattling "tin lizzies" that will be paid for at the end of three years, if not attached because a few payments could not be made.

When this giant, LABOR, organized for the purpose of giving more schooling to the children, to keep them out of mines, mills and factories, to give them free textbooks, to give mothers pensions, old age and unemployment insurance, to provide the underprivileged with opportunities to lift their moral, social and intellectual status, then they are supposed to suffer with attempted crucifixion at the hands of modern Pontius Pilates of the ilk of the Daffy Tafts, the Joe Screwballs and the Heartless Hartleys.

The members of organized labor should not forget that even in adversity they must keep their faces to the sun and must keep their faith in God, with the additional fortification of bigger and stronger unions based upon justice, equality and the brotherhood of man.—The Butcher Workman.

51. © 1950 CARL STAMWITZ

"On cold nights I prefer the reactionary papers—they're so full of hot air!"

## Doctors Oppose Aid To Schools Despite Serious Shortages

Washington.—A survey shows an alarming shortage of new internes to staff the nation's hospitals.

The survey was made public a few days after the American Medical Association "ran out" on its commitment to Congress and federal officials to support a bill granting federal funds to hard-pressed medical schools to help the education of doctors to overcome the shortage.

AFL officials criticized the medical association's reversal of position on the federal aid to medical schools bill which came at the same session that the association's house of delegates voted for a compulsory $25 a year assessment to fight President Truman's national health insurance program.

The shortage of internes was reported by the Hospital Council of the National Capital Area in a survey of 9 hospitals. The council said only 102 internes had signed to fill 140 openings next July. It said that even the city's three university hospitals, "acknowledged teaching centres," had failed to fill their quotas.

"While there is a need for about 9,500 internes a year throughout the nation, only 5,500 medical students graduate," the council reported. "The interne supply of about 1,000 graduates of foreign schools or men who repeat internesnips still leaves a deficit of about 3,000."

Nelson Cruikshank, AFL director of insurance activities, said that the medical association's reversal of support is "a run out" on its commitment to the surgeon general. The association did not oppose the bill already passed by the Senate and which contained provisions demanded by the doctors.

Presumably part of the $3,000,000 to be raised by the $25 compulsory assessment on physicians will be used to fight this measure in the House next session of the Congress.

In fixing a compulsory assessment, the doctors did what only labor unions —among all the voluntary associations in this country—are prohibited from doing. The Taft-Hartley Act specificially prohibits labor unions from levying any compulsory assessments for any reason.

So AFL members can work for a national health insurance program and expanded social security with funds raised only by voluntary giving. The money will be only a fraction of the $3,000,000 to which the doctors are forcing their members to hand over.

Even the Scripps-Howard newspapers said "tut-tut" to the medical association's action. Most AMA members, they said, will gladly chip in the $25 to finance the fight. But any who may be out of sympathy with that fight should be free to refuse and the AMA has erred seriously by not leaving them free.

### ENOUGH'S ENOUGH

Three hermits lived in a cave and spent all day staring at the wall, never speaking. One day a stallion ran past the entrance of their cave. Six months later one hermit mumbled, "That was a pretty brown horse."

Two years later another hermit said, "That wasn't a brown horse, it was white."

About a year later, the third hermit got up and stalked toward the entrance of the cave. "If it's going to be this constant bickering," he said "I'm leaving."

### PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION

Judge: "Your profession?"
Witness: "Agricultural expert."
"What was your father?"
"A farmer."
"And your grandfather?"
"A peasant."

### TOO DULL!

"Hard work never killed anybody," said the father.

"That's just the trouble, Dad," returned the son, just out of college, "I want to engage in something that has the spice of danger."

### RUNNING SHORT

Dr.: "I'd like to have a quart of blood for a transfusion; can you give it?"

Recruit: "I can only give you a pint. I gotta shave tomorrow."

### TIME FOR REFORM

Little boy in woodshed: "Father, did grandpa spank you when you were little boy?"

Father (with paddle): "Yes, my son."

Little boy: "And did great-grandpa spank grandpa when he was a little boy?"

Father: "Yes, son."

Boy: "And did great-great-grandpa spank great-grandpa?"

Father: "Yes".

Boy: "Well, don't you think with my help you could overcome this inherited rowdyism?"

## Trades Union Directory

LABOR TEMPLE, 307 BROADWAY WEST

**Amalgamated Meat Cutters and B. W., Local 212**—Representative, Geo. Johnston, 203 Labor Temple; FA. 9477.

**Auto Workers' Union, Lodge No. 1307, I. A. of M.**—Business Agent, Gordon Webb, 111 Labor Temple; FA. 9517.

**Bakery Salesmen, Local 189, I. B. T. C. and M.**—Business Agent, E. Holmes, 206 Labor Temple; FA. 8714.

**Bakers' Union, Local 468**—Business Agent, Melvin Kemmis, 16 East Hastings St.; PA. 4741.

**Barbers**—International Journeymen of America, No. 120—Secretary, C. E. Herrett, 201 Labor Temple; FA. 8762.

**Beverage Dispensers and Culinary Workers, No. 836**—Secretary, J. Dye, 3248 Clinton St.; DExter 2153-F.

**Beverage Dispensers and Culinary Workers, No. 676**—Business Manager, F. W. Mills, 68 West Hastings St.; MA. 4948.

**Blacksmiths' Union, Local 151**—Secretary, P. Mitchell, 1703 Dublin St., New Westminster

**Boilermakers' Union, No. 359**—Business Agent, James Downie, 529 Beatty St.; TAtlow 1047.

**Boilermakers' Union, Local 194**—Secretary, P. Moore, Box 422, New Westminster, B. C.

**Bookbinders' Union, Local 105**—Recording Secretary, F. Milne, 977 Broughton St.

**Brick & Clay Workers' Union, No. 126**—Secretary, P. J. Cape, 1128 Campbell Avenue, Abbotsford, B. C.

**Bricklayers' Union, Local No. 1**—L. Padgett, Sr., 3293 W. 21st; KErr 5293-R

**Building Laborers' Union, Local 602**—Secretary, L. J. Millman, 307 West Broadway. Phone FAir. 9122.

**Building Laborers' Union** (New Westminster) No. 1070—Secretary, T. Porter, 1505 Sixth St.; phone N. W. 1179-R

**Building Material and Fuel Truck Drivers' Union, Local 213**—Business Agent, H. Bonnell, 206 Labor Temple; phone FA. 8714.

**Building Service Employees, Local 244**—Business Agent, A. J. Wybrew, 339 W. Pender St.; Phone MArine 8805.

**Building Trades Council**—Secretary, H. W. Watts, 102 Labor Temple; phone FA. 4343.

**Carpenters' Union, No. 452**—Recording Secretary, H. P. Hamilton; Fin. Sec., J. G. Smith; Business Agents: J. Stevenson and R. E. Guthrie, Labor Temple, FAirmont 2396.

**Carpenters' Union (Chilliwack), No. 1243**—Secretary, J. E. Towes, Box 482, Chilliwack, B.C.

**Carpenters' Union** (Courtenay), No. 1638—Rec. Sec., C. Iverson, R. R. No. 2, Courtenay, B. C.

**Carpenters, Local 1251 (New Westminster)**—Business Agent, J. T. Bannan, 1008 - 6th Ave., New Westminster. Phone N.W. 515R.

**Carpenters (Nanaimo), Local No. 627**—Secretary, F. T. Bolton, 20 Fraser St., Nanaimo, B. C.

**Carpenters' Union No. 513 (Port Alberni)**—Secretary, R. Stubb, Box 908, Port Alberni, B. C.

**Cement Finishers (Section of Local No. 602)**—Business Agent, W. J. Baskerville, 105 Labor Temple; FA. 9122.

**City Hall Employees, Local 28**—Business Agent, W. M. Black, 116 Labor Temple; FAirmont 9223.

**Civic Employees' Union (Burnaby), No. 23**—Secretary, J. E. Wilson, 2121 Merritt Ave., New Westminster.

**Civic Employees' Union, Local 28**—Business Agent, Donald Guise, 49 West Hastings St.; Phone PAcific 4548.

**Commercial Telegraphers' Union, C.P.R.** Division No. 1—W. Pye, Box 432, Vancouver.

**Distillery Workers, Local No. 69**—Secretary, R. F. Redman, 460 Campbell St.; New Westminster, B. C.

**Distillery Workers' Union, No. 98**—(U.D.L.)—Secretary, G. I. Guy, 545 East 47th. Phone FRaser 5741.

**Electrical Workers' Union, Local 213**—Business Manager, George Gee, 111 Dunsmuir St.; PAcific 7381-2.

**Elevator Constructors, Local 82**—Secretary, H. C. MacKechan, 2057 East 7th Avenue.

**Embalmers, Undertakers and Assistants Union, No. 23074**—Secretary, R. F. Wilson, 5361 Alma Rd.

**Engineers, Hoisting and Portable, Local 115**—Business Agent, A. W. Scott, 152 E. Hastings, Ste. 314-16, MArine 2849

**Engineers, School and Caretakers, Local 963**—Secretary, George Zallo, 340 East 15th Avenue.

**Engineers' Union (Stationary Operating), Local No. 882**—Business Agent, Harry Berger, 193 E. Hastings, Ste. 314-16 MArine 2849.

**Film Exchange Employees, Local 371**—Secretary, C. W. Backus, 1928 East 40th Avenue.

**Fire Fighters, No. 18**—Business Agent, Rush-Bird, 3196 West 14th; CH. 5685.

**Fire Fighters (Burnaby), Local 323**—Secretary, B. J. Pontifex, 4006 Douglas Road, New Westminster.

**Fire Fighters, New Westminster, Local 256**—Secretary, D. Anderson, 1823 Hamilton Street, New Westminster

**Floorlayers' Union, U. B. of C. J., Local No. 1541**—Business Agent, R. V. Nash, 2803 East 18th Ave.; DExter 2439-L

**Furniture Workers, U. B. C., Local No. 2533**—Secretary, Hazel Hart, 4031 St. Catherines.

**Furniture & Mill Workers, Local 2534**—Secretary, George Powers, R. R. No. 5, New Westminster, B. C.

**Glaziers and Glass Workers', Local No. 1527**—Secretary, A. Allen, 5215 Culloden Street, Vancouver.

**Gas Workers' Union, Local No. 225**—Secretary, E. Rees, 2045 W. 7th; office phone: MArine 2958.

**Hospital Employees' Union, No. 180**—Business Agent, W. M. Black, 116 Labor Temple; FAirmont 9223.

**Home Service Workers' Union, No. 211**—Secretary, Mrs. J. Hallock, 685 West 16th; FA. 3067-L.

**Hotel and Restaurant Employees, Local 28**—Business Agent, J. Price, 413 Granville St.; Phone PAcific 7923.

**International Longshoremen's Association, Local No. 38/183**—Secretary, James Darwood, 3049 Kitchener St., HAstings 3754-M

**Ironworkers, Local 97**—Business Agent, F. G. Cook, 110 Labor Temple; phone FA. 9158.

**Jewelry Workers' Union, No. 46**—Secretary, W. Routley, 144 West Hastings St., DExter 3492R. After 6, FR. 2774.

**Ladies' Garment Workers, Local 270**—Business Agent, C. Carr, 119 West Pender St.; Phone DExter 2782-M.

**Lathers' Union, Local 207**—Secretary, W. Finlayson, 4848 Dumfries St.; HA. 6979-Y

**Laundry Workers, No. 292**—Business Agent, J. H. Irving, 112 Labor Temple; FAirmont 9513.

**Lumber and Sawmill Workers, U. B. C., Local No. 2693**—Secretary, Hugh Wood, 101 Labor Temple; FA. 9712.

**Machinists, No. 182**—Secretary, J. Bygate, 3167 Kitchener St. Phone HA. 5521M.

**Machinists, Local 692**—Business Agent, Alf. Dyer, 111 Labor Temple; phone FA. 9517.

**Machinists' Lodge, No. 151**—Secretary, J. D. Wildy, 1806 Seventh Avenue, New Westminster

**Mailers' Union, No. 70**—Secretary R. G. Taylor, 1176 Duchess Avenue, West Vancouver, B. C.

**Maintenance-of-Way Employees, Local No. 187 (C. P. R.)**—Secretary, S. Wray, 2487 Kitchener Street.

**Maintenance-of-Way Employees, Local 31**—Secretary, R. McLure, 1836 East 14th Avenue.

**Marine Engineers, National Association of, Council No. 7**—Secretary, H. B. McKie, 219 West Pender Street. Phone: PAcific 8549.

**Millworkers (Sash, Door and Fixture) Local No. 1928**—Secretary, D. McLeod, 2134 Yew St.

**Milk Salesmen and Dairy Employees, Local 464**—Secretary, Birt Showler, 206 Labor Temple; FA. 8716.

**Molders' Union, Local 281**—Business Agent, Louis Herzog, 101 Labor Temple; FAirmont 9431.

**Motion Picture Projectionists, Local 348,** Business Manager, T. E. Foley; Secretary, J. H. Leslie, P. O. Box 345; Phone MArine 3042.

**Musicians' Union, Local 145**—Business Manager, Geo. E. Leach, Suite 51, 558 Granville St. PAcific 7842.

**Office Employees' Int. Union, Local No. 15**—Secretary, E. Gouthro, 106 Labor Temple; FA. 4342.

**Painters, Local 138**—Business Manager, Jack Eaves, 117 Labor Temple; phone FA. 9771

**Paint & Varnish Workers' Union, Local No. 1580**—Secretary, L. J. Pribyl, 150 E. 49th. Phone FRaser 8288.

**Paper Makers' International Brotherhood, (Ocean Falls) Local No. 380**—Secretary, W. P. Martin, Ocean Falls.

**Papermakers' Int. Brotherhood, Local No. 456 (New Westminster)**—Secretary, Helen Ganton, 227 6th Street, New Westminster.

**Patternmakers, Local No. 1380**—Secretary, Leo. Wiles, 1554 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, B.C.; West 1493-R.

**Pile Drivers and Wooden Bridgemen, Local 2404**—Business Agent, S. Allen, 193 E. Hastings St., PAcific 4046.

**Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 170**—Business Agent, Frank Carlisle, 109 Labor Temple; FA. 9766.

**Photo Engravers, Local 54**—E. J. Mathias, 5751 Balsam. Phone Kerrisdale 1670M.

**Plasterers' Union, No. 779**—Secretary, H. West, 3419 West 33rd, BAy. 6333-M.

**Plumbers and Pipefitters (Railroad)**—Local 571—Secretary, Lloyd Elzick, 1377 Haro Street.

**Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, No. 69**—Secretary, Thos. S. Smart, 5407 Commercial, FRaser 1348.

**Pulp and Sulphite (Conveyers) Union, Local 433**—Secretary, F. Mackinnon, Business Agent, O. Braaten, 339 W. Pender. TAtlow 1662.

**Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers**—International Office Representative, H. L. Hanson, 412 Granville St., Room 314; TAtlow 2858.

**Pursers and Chief Stewards, Local 180**—Secretary, R. Stover, 1451 Woodland Drive.

**Railway Carmen (Port Mann), Lodge No. 880**—Secretary, J. R. Doutre, 707 Dublin St., New Westminster, B.C.

**Railway and Steamship Clerks, No. 510**—Secretary, T. W. Kirby, 3566 Triumph Street.

**Railway and Steamship Clerks, No. 650**—Secretary, A. Padgham, 5013 Payne St., DExter 1376-L.

**Refrigeration Workers, No. 516, U. A. F. & A. I.**—Secretary, L. R. Winnie, 137 West 49th, Vancouver; FRaser 4499.

**Resilient Floorlayers (Section of Local No. 1541)**—Secretary, Russell Nash, 101 Labor Temple; FA. 9712.

**Retail Grocery and Food Clerks, Local No. 1518**—Secretary, D. A. Wade, 205 Labor Temple; FA. 8242.

**Secondary School Teachers' Association**—Secretary, Wm. Aisbury, 2604 East Sixth, HAstings 2072-R.

**Sheet Metal Workers, Local 280**—Business Manager, James Walker, 307 Labor Temple; FA. 7636.

**Sheet Metal Workers (Railroad), Local 314**—Secretary, T. Owen, 920 East 55th Avenue, Vancouver.

**Shinglers' and Roofers' Union, No. 2346**—Secretary, A. Tyukoson, 4244 Prince Albert. FA. 3773-R.

**Shingle Weavers' Union, Local No. 2808**—Secretary, Alex Low, 1184 West 73rd Avenue, Vancouver, Phone LAngara 0755-R.

**Shipwrights, Boatbuilders, Joiners and Caulkers, Local No. 506**—Business Agent, J. Evans, 49 West Hastings. Phone TA. 3726.

**Shoreworkers' Local of the U. F. & A. W. I.**—Business Agent, Alex Gordon, 156 E. Cordova. Phone TAt. 3536.

**Seamen's Int. Union of North America**—Secretary, D. Brenner, 565 Hamilton St., PAcific 7524.

**Sign and Pictorial Painters, Local 726**—Secretary, J. Middleton, 5881 Dundas St.; phone, GLen. 1338-Y.

**Street Railway Employees, Division 101**—Business Agent, L. Easler, Lee Building, 175 E. Broadway; FAir. 4262.

**Street Railwaymen's Union, No. 134**—Business Agent, R. Cormack, 26 Lorne St., New Westminster, B. C.

**Taxi Drivers, Local 181**—Secretary, C. Gower, 204 Labor Temple; FA. 8716.

**Teachers' Association, New Westminster**—Secretary, W. K. Nevard, 1144 London, New Westminster.

**Terrazzo Mechanics, No. 4**—Secretary, G. R. Chappell, 4549 East Hastings St.; GLen 0148-M.

**Textile Workers' Local, No. 12**—Secretary, G. F. Murphy, 76 East 2nd Ave.

**Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 118**—Secretary, Walter Blake, P. O. Box 711.

**Tile Setters, Local No. 1**—Secretary, W. Richards, Pleasantside P. O., B. C.

**Tile Setters' Helpers, Local No. 79**—Secretary, K. S. Kennedy, 670 Rupert Street.

**Truck Drivers' Union, Local No. 31**—Business Agent Ray Lenfesty, 306 Labor Temple; FA. 8716.

**Typographical Union, Local 226**—Secretary Harry Neelands, 212 Labor Temple; FA. 2868.

**United Garment Workers' Union, No. 178**—Secretary, Miss Eileen Scheelar, 1522 Beach Avenue.

**United Garment Workers' Union, No. 190**—Secretary, Walter W. Shaw, 2495 West 8th Avenue.

**United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union** — Secretary Wm Rigby, 138 East Cordova; TAtlow 2258.

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# Building Industry Maintains High Rate: Buoys Economy

**DEMAND FOR DWELLINGS, OFFICES AND FACTORIES** continues to be a buoyant force in B.C.'s economy, making work for about 25,000 builders and producers of builders' supplies on a payroll close to $66,000,000 in 1948.

In B.C., as in other provinces, building has been one of the main props of postwar prosperity, and there are signs that building will continue at a high rate.

A slackening in the feverish postwar scramble for housing showed in 1949, and appeared to be continuing in the first three months of 1950.

By the measuring rod of number of building permits and their value, in the chief metropolitan area, 1949 was the first year of levelling out. The metropolitan area, where the trend is less affected by a few big-cost jobs than other areas, includes Vancouver, Burnaby, North Vancouver City, North Vancouver District and West Vancouver. And the following figures are compiled for this area:

In 1949 the municipalities and cities authorized construction of 11,682 buildings that were expected to cost $48,707,667.

In 1948 the number of building permits issued was 13,069 valued at $53,650,299.

In 1947 the number of building permits issued was 10,577 for a value of $33,823,614.

Big figures for the building trades mean big payrolls that nourish the body economic. In the whole province last year, 2078 firms willing to tell all to the provincial department of labor reckoned on 22,000 employees and a payroll of $59,422,935.

**All Types**

Most of the companies were erecting dwellings, offices and industrial quarters. But the group includes also those engaged in laying sewers, pipes and valves, dredges, pile-drivers, structural steel fabricators, railway fencers, and builders of wharves. It includes, in addition, firms making returns as contractors of dry kilns, refuse burners, mills, brick furnaces, electrical contractors, floor layers and bricklayers.

The department also heard from 132 producers of building materials, who employed about 2600 whose wages and salaries added up to $6,907,420. The list of products includes brick, cut stone, Portland cement, lime, tiles, firebrick, insulation, sand, gravel and crushed rock.

**Paint and Furniture**

Other industries flourish in the wake of booming construction. These are the makers of paint, the manufacturers of furniture, bedding, carpeting, linoleum and tiling. A payroll of $958,283 was reported by 13 paint manufacturers averaging 175 employees throughout the year. And in the furniture industry 137 firms with 2000 employees provided payroll of $4,183,552.

## Nineteen Fifty

Half the people say that 1950 will be a worse year than 1949, and half say it will be as good or better. In a little more than eight months, half the people will have been proved right or wrong.

The King James version has it that one should take no thought of the morrow "for the morrow shall take thought of things for itself." But maybe the translator might have been more accurate if he had intimated that over-anxiety is the sin.

A lot of planning is necessary for tomorrow's breakfast, as Zola ruminated when he considered the egg that appeared on his plate. Yet the bachelor who averts marriage because he doubts his ability to provide college careers for his children, if any, is as likely to starve as the man who contracts for more life insurance than his current income justifies.

The man who gets places probably is the fellow who plans to serve his present customers so well that they will continue to be his customers in the near and distant future. In serving a customer well, a business will do whatever is necessary in the way of new inventory, new buildings, new equipment, new staff. In fact, the motto for the 1950 business man might well be to stay in business actively, being neither bowed with caution nor exalted with optimism. After all, the greatest depression in living memory followed a period of optimism.—North Shore Press.

## Good Housing Helps Combat Crime, Says Governor of Illinois

Gov. Adlai Stevenson of Illinois says: "Wipe out slums! And you'll really be doing something about crime!

"In one section of the city of Chicago, 200,000 people are crowded together into three square miles," he points out.

"From among these 200,000 people, a mere one-twentieth of Chicago's population, come one-fourth of the total homicide and rape offenders and one-eighth of all reported robberies.

"The direct relationship between crime and environment is all too common in American cities. The slums of Detroit produce five times as many crimes, and 15 times as many criminals per 1000 population, as do areas with adequate housing facilities. . . .

"The rates of juvenile delinquency and adult crime show marked decreases where good housing has been developed on former slum sites.

"The juvenile delinquency rate for the area now occupied by the Jane Addams public housing project in Chicago, for example, was cut in half when the slum dwellings were replaced by decent housing.

Yet isn't it funny how daily newspaper publishers "crusade" against crime but block any attempts—like public housing, national health insurance and aid to education — which would really do something about crime?

"Sorry, but these people request a union man!"

An old lady was visiting a convict in the state penitentiary. "And what is your name, my good man?" she asked.

"999", was the answer.

"Oh, but that's not your real name," the old lady said.

"Naw, just me pen name," he answered.

**HE THEN HURRIED BACK**

Mechanic: "Well, good-bye, baby, I'm going out of town for a few days; what's your phone number? I'll call you up when I get back."

New girl friend: "Plaza 4144 and if a man answers—you stayed away too long."

**IMPROVING THE DICTIONARY**

E-con-o-mist—A man who plans what to do with money that isn't his.

Home—A place where you can take off your new shoes and put on your old manners.

Middle Age—The time when a man is always thinking that in a week or two he will feel just as good as ever.

Op-ti-mist—A man who gets treed by a lion but enjoys the scenery.

Par-a-site—A man who goes through a swinging door on someone else's push.

Wid-ow—A woman who no longer finds fault with her husband.

Wom-an—A person who reaches for a chair when she answers the telephone.

**AIN'T IT THE TRUTH**

One Sunday, a Negro preacher was addressing his congregation. Somewhere in the sermon, he came out with the statement, "Now, Brethren, we is just got to do something about this here 'status quo'.

At this, one of his following, a fellow named Rastus, jumped up immediately and wanted to know what this 'status quo' meant.

Without hesitation, the preacher answered, "Rastus, 'status quo" is Latin for de mess we's in."

The other day a contractor went to inspect a row of partly finished cottages he was building. This was a hurry-up job that had to be completed by the first of the month. The prospective owners had paid down their money and were anxious to move in.

Reaching the first house, the contractor stationed his foreman on the other side of a wall, and then called out, "Can you hear me?"

"Yes, I can," replied the foreman.

"Can you see me?" the contractor next called out?"

"No," replied the foreman.

"That," commented the contractor, "is what I call a good wall!"

"Why is it that sometimes you seem manly and sometimes effeminate?"

"Heredity, I suppose."

"Heredity?"

"Yeah, half of my ancestors were men and the other half were women."

"Do you act toward your wife as you did before you married her?"

"Exactly. I used to stand in front and look at her house almost afraid to go in. I still do the same thing."

"Pa, my teacher told me that I was illiterate," announced the teen-age Arkansawer.

"The heck he did!" snorted the irate parent. "Well, you just take your birth certificate to school with you tomorrow and show him you ain't."

Census taker (to woman at the door): How many in your family?

Woman: "Five. Me, the old man, the kid, cow and cat."

Census taker: "And the politics of your family?"

Woman: Mixed. I'm a Republican, the old man's a Democrat, the kid's wet, the cow's dry and the cat's a free trader.

Teacher: "The sentence 'My father had money,' is in the past tense. Now Jackie, what tense would you be speaking in, if you said, 'My father has money?"

Jackie: "Pretense".

"Are you the young man who jumped in the river and saved my son from drowning when he fell through the ice?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Where're his mittens?"

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# C.I.O. Unity Offer Goes To Executive Council

Washington.—AFL President William Green told CIO President Philip Murray that the latter's proposal for organic unity of organized labor will be submitted to the AFL Executive Council at its meeting scheduled to begin May 8 in Philadelphia.

Mr. Murray had proposed to President Green and the heads of other labor groups that they create a standing joint committee to coordinate work on economic, legislative and political problems and to achieve organic unity.

Mr. Green replied:

"The conclusions which you express in your letter make it clear that time and experience have shown that labor and labor's friends, united can successively deal with the forces of reaction through united action and united effort. That means that one plan and one purpose should be formulated by one strong, well-established labor organization.

"When several plans and policies are formulated, inspired as they may be by the same purpose on the part of those who compose and make up different labor organizations, it is difficult to unite and blend the conflicting plans into unity of purpose.

"I was pleased to note your statement that 'ideal way to meet the challenge (of reactionary forces of the nation) would be organic unity of all labor. This is the desirable goal of which, I am sure, we all aspire.'

"You supplement this statement by a proposal to establish a joint committee consisting of duly accredited representatives of various organizations 'with authority to embark upon and pursue a common program' and that 'it should be empowered to coordinate our efforts in the economic, legislative and political spheres,' and 'it should also seek to achieve the organic unity of all American labor.'

"Because your proposal deals with plans and policies to be pursued by the organizations to which your letter was addressed, it becomes imperatively necessary to submit your communication to the Executive Council for consideration and official action. I will submit your communication to the Executive Council when it meets on May 8 and will advise you as quickly as possible of such action as the Executive Council may take."

## 1950 Engineering Class Will Break 1949 Record

Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labor, stated that the 1950 engineering class would be the largest in the history of Canada.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the 3,500 new engineers who would be available for employers next spring would allow many employers to carry out plans for recruitment which had previously been restricted by the inadequate supply of graduates.

He explained that the 3,200 engineering graduates in 1949 had gone far towards taking up a backlog of openings, but that the needs of many employers had still not been met, especially in the smaller firms, many of whom were only now considering the possibility of using engineering graduates on their staffs.

Mr. Mitchell reported that a survey made in 1946 had produced the information that an estimated 2,000 new engineering graduates in each of the five years from 1947 to 1951 inclusive would be required to meet the demand by Canadian industry for engineers. These estimates were being reviewed with the same employers, with particular reference to prospective needs in 1950 and 1951. While all of these employers have not yet been covered, the net results to date showed an increase of slightly more than 10 per cent in the combined estimates made three years ago.

In both 1947 and 1948, the actual demand for engineering graduates was between 2,000 and 2,200, while graduating classes in these two years amounted to 1,100 and 1,700 respectively. Thus, there was a considerable backlog of openings to add to the normal demand of 1949. This backlog was partially taken care of by the graduating class of 1949, which numbered about 3,000.

There were special factors which facilitated the placement of the class of 1949. One was a number of large scale employers who had restricted their recruiting programs in 1947 and 1948 in anticipation of a better supply of graduates in 1949. Another was a substantial number of "company undergraduates", these being students who were attending university on leave-of-absence from their regular employment. A third factor was a recruiting program for the Armed Services which accounted for more than 200, a large proportion of whom were engineering graduates.

The minister explained that the bulk of the employment available for new engineering graduates had always been concentrated in the establishment of a relatively small number of large employers. Surveys on which estimates could be based were necessarily made almost entirely through these larger employers. Employment officials believed, however, that there was a substantial latent demand among medium-sized and smaller employers. Even if this prospective field of employment averaged only one graduate per company, the demand for engineering graduates would be increased by several hundreds.

In former years, the minister said, shortage of supply had been mainly responsible for the rapid absorption of inexperienced graduates into the more publicized openings where there had been well organized recruiting programs. In 1950, it would be rather a case of seeking out the openings, including the substantial number believed to exist in smaller operations.

## State Candidates To Be Quizzed in California

Candidates seeking election to federal and state office at the June primaries in California have been invited to declare their positions on issues of importance to the California Labor League for Political Education when the state AFL political agency meets this week-end in San Francisco.

Interviews will be held Sunday afternoon and evening at the Whitcomb Hotel. Candidates will be interrogated by the League Executive Council and by officials of local leagues and councils of the American Federation of Labor.

Only candidates involved in statewide elections will be so interviewed since district area candidates have already been contacted by local units of the state league.

Questionaires have been directed to all state-wide candidates which they may submit by mail if unable to attend the Sunday session.

---

He was quarrelling with his wife, and not doing any too well.

"You didn't have a rag on your back when I married you," he said acidly.

"Anyway," she retorted, "I've plenty now."

"Medicine won't help! Every time he thinks of returning to his non-union job, he suffers a relapse!"

## Moose Jaw Council Clears Temple Debt

The Moose Jaw Trades and Labor Council meeting hall is now free of debt. On January 17th, Brother Andy Tait, Secretary of the Council, presented to Brother M. G. Shaefer, President of Moose Jaw Local 395, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffers, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, a cheque in final payment on the hall.

For a number of years the Moose Jaw Trades and Labor Council had been dependent upon being able to rent a suitable meeting place, but in 1946 the Officers decided that they should purchase a building of their own. They approached all local affiliated unions asking for financial support by way of loans without interest. All the unions responded with the result that sufficient money was raised to purchase the building which is now known as the Moose Jaw Trades and Labor Hall.

## Vacuum

When I recall the political illiteracy of our young troops at the start of the war, I am moved to charge education with gross dereliction in its responsibility to teach knowledge of the human values at issue in the world. Unlike too many critics of education, however, I cannot lay the blame on the doorstep of education alone. Rather it must be shared with the people as a whole.

Throughout Europe, wherever our armies were stationed, the people were bewildered by Americans who appeared indifferent to the political and philosophical origins and nature of the most powerful and progressive nation in the world.

Unhappily, when driven into a corner intellectually, our soldiers were forced to fall back on our wage scales, our automobiles, our refrigerators—and eventually and triumphantly to the American bathroom—for their defense. Here is an indictment not only of American education but of the irresponsible indifference of citizens who have permitted this vacuum to remain.

Men cannot be impressed into good citizenship. If they are to cherish the freedoms that come to them under democratic self-government, they cannot be disciplined into devotion. Instead they must be taught to value the great spiritual possessions to which they are born, by assuming from childhood a share of responsibility for safeguarding those possessions.

Good citizenship springs from an appreciation of the great values of our institutions and from active participation in them. Democratic institutions will continue to prosper and flourish only so long as they are fed on freedom for all, not on abridgment for some.

We are engaged in a contest today over the integrity of the individual versus the integrity of the state. It is a contest in which ideas are as important as the atom bomb, and it is a contest that can conceivably last to the end of our lifetime.

A democracy such as ours cannot be defeated in this struggle; it can only lose by default.

It can only lose if our people deny, through indifference and neglect, their personal responsibilities for its security and growth.

—General Omar N. Bradley

---

He to she: "I love you, I love you. Marry me."

She to He: "You should see Mama before I answer you."

He to She: "I have seen her . . . but I still prefer you."

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# Anti-Trust Violations Show How Business Kills "Free" Enterprise

Washington.—Free enterprise is killed by business itself, not by government. That is the conclusion of a survey made by The Machinist, publication of the International Association of Machinists.

The survey shows that the government brought to court more than 500 different firms in the past two years on charges of attempting to eliminate competition by price-fixing or violating the anti-trust laws. In 1949 alone, the survey shows, 263 corporations were charged with attempting to eliminate competition in violation of the anti-trust laws.

**Meager Budget**

In its copyright story, The Machinist points out that even the figures it gives d onot tell the story, as authorities agree that the Department of Justice can investigate only about 10 per cent of the complaints it receives because the anti-trust division annual budget is about $3,750,000—less than most cities spend on their police departments.

"Illegal price fixing and other attempts to throttle business competition have reached such proportions," declares The Machinist article, "that Attorney General McGrath has labeled anti-trust violations 'the most pressing domestic problem of our time next to unemployment.'"

In an editorial commenting on the survey, The Machinist points out that the anti-trust laws, designed to maintain free enterprise, are dying, and that big business, which talks loudest about protecting the American way of life, is killing free enterprise.

**Stifle Competition**

Declaring that big business has made every effort to stifle competition and free itself from the anti-trust laws, the editorial points out that the drive began in the 80th Congress, when the insurance and transportation industries won complete exemption from competition; that the drive is continuing with an attempt to ram through legislation to wipe out the laws intended to protect small business firms from price discrimination.

Even in industries still supposedly covered by the anti-trust laws, violations are common, and when the companies are caught the fines are small, are charged off to business expense, and the violations continue.

## What Your Car Costs to Run

If the family budget is as tight at your house as it is at ours, you'll be interested in some ideas we ran across the other day on how to cut the cost of owning and driving the family chariot. The Kiplinger Magazine, Changing Times, put a cost accountant firm to work on how much the average family actually spends on its car. The results startled us. You can read them in the magazine's April issue.

If your family is like most, you drive about 10,000 miles a year. That means you're spending approximately $482 a year just to operate your car. That's $40.15 a month. This may be the reason you find it so hard to balacne the budget at home.

If you've any doubts, here's the way the accountants break down this cost: $207 for gasoline; $65 for maintenance. $40 for tires; $98 for insurance (fire, theft, collision, damage and liability); $19 for license fees; $50 for miscellaneous expenses including parking, polishing and minor body work. If yo udo your own repair work, you save $68 a year—but that's all. On top of that, of course, you have to allow for part of the difference between what the car cost and what you'll get for it when you trade it in. The magazine estimates the normal life of a new post war car at 4½ years. It is generally true that it costs more money to keep an old car running than it does to buy a new one.

A car is expensive in any family. It's as expensive as rent if these cost accountants are reasonably accurate. Changing Times suggests three ways that any family can save money in operating its car. Here are three simpe rules:

"Drive slowly. On a 1000-mile trip you can save $12.22 by averaging 45 miles an hour instead of 55. You can save $19.36 by driving 35 miles an hour instead of 55.

"Make repairs promptly. Don't try to skimp by postponing needed repairs or replacement parts. Faulty brakes, worn tires, defective steering may cost you plenty."

"You have a better medium than I,to learn your fortune!... I mean, of course, your labor paper!"

**His Masterpiece!**

The aged ex-convict now retired to respectability, sat in the mellow glow of a few glasses of "the real stuff," and recalled the good old days.

"I remember the first time I broke out of jail," he mused, "the little woman helped me—baked me a cake with a file in it. We hadn't been married very long at the time. and she wasn't a very good cook. But she went right ahead and did her best."

The ex-jailbird sat silent, brows knitted, pondering deeply.

"You know some of the details of the affair have grown hazy in my mind," he resumed, "and try as I may, I can't recollect them. For instance, I can't remember whether I ate the cake and sawed my way out with the file or ate the file and sawed my way out with the cake!"

Frances has a little car,
She drives it oh so deft—
But every time she signals right,
The little car turns left.

**Complete Change**

"How you have changed! You used to have thick black hair and now you're bald. You used to have a ruddy complexion and now you're pale. You used to be stocky and now you're thin. I'm surprised, Mr. Gordon."

"But I'm not Mr. Gordon."

"Look! You're even changed your name!"

**Angry**

But why are you so angry with the doctor, Mrs. Blank?"

"I told him I was tired, and he asked to see my tongue!"

Beware, so long as you live, of judging men by their outward appearance.—La Fontaine.

**Moving**

This was in New Jersey: Robinson kept hens. One night he had two stolen. The next night he stayed in the hen shed with a friend to wait for the thieves. After a short time a storm blew up and the shed started swaying in the wind.

After an hour, Robinson, bored stiff, announced that he was going to bed, saying: "They won't come tonight, Tom."

He stepped out of the shed and found himself on a truck moving slowly along a country lane.

They are taking the shed, too.

**Simple Needs**

Head Waiter: "Would monsieur prefer Spanish, French or Italian cooking?"

Customer: "I don't mind—I want a boiled egg."

**An Election Without Bias**

At a meeting of a Mothers' and Babies Club one day votes were cast to decide which was the most beautiful baby present. Each baby received one vote!

"Is your office force like one big family?"

"No. Everybody is congenial."

"How long have you worked for the company?"

"Ever since the boss threatened to fire me."

"I must be getting stronger."

"How can you tell?"

"Well, a few years ago I couldn't carry $5 worth of groceries, and now it's easy.

"Dad, what is in an inscrutable smile?"

"It' s the kind, my son, your mother had on her face this morning when I told her that business might keep me out late tonight."

Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow.
She took it to Los Angeles—
And look at the damned thing now!"

Little Willie, feeling mean,
Drank a slug of gasoline.
Struck a match to his cigarette—
They haven't found poor Willie yet.

The honeymoon is over when the wife starts complaining about the noise her husband makes getting breakfast.

Old Gentleman: "You're an honest boy, but it was a $10 bill, not ten ones that I lost."

Small Boy: "I know, mister, it was a $10 bill that I picked up. But the last time I found one, the man who owned it didn't have any change."

Five-Year-Old: "What's your last name?"

Six-Year-Old Girl: "I don't know yet. I'm not married."

A sense of humor is what makes you laugh at something that would make you mad if it happened to you.

Contrary to general belief, an egotist is not a man who thinks too much of himself; he is one who thinks too little of other people.

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# City Needs To Start Slum Clearance, Housing Project

REPLACING OF A QUARTER-SQUARE-MILE of Main street slums with a $15,000,000 housing project has been recommended following completion of a three-year survey of the area by Prof. Leonard C. Marsh of U. B. C.

The report, ordered by Vancouver Housing Association of the Community Chest, deals with the squallor in the 40 blocks east of Main and bounded by Hastings, Glen Drive, False Creek flats and Great Northern tracks.

Living conditions are "ugly, squalid and depressed," the report says.

Dr. Marsh believes it would financially benefit the city to rebuild the area.

At present, servicing costs for the district total nearly double the taxes received. Servicing now costs about $298,000 a year, including streets, water, parks, policing, sanitary inspection, health and medical services and social assistance.

Revenues received from the area amount to only $150,000.

But a rebuilt residential district there would pay all municipal taxes and the city would find its net position improved.

Financing of the scheme would require a subsidy, which Dr. Marsh says is available from the Federal Government. He claims $500,000 a year would provide new low-rent housing for the 7000 persons now living in the district.

**Eligible for Grants**

The $15,000,000 building program would be financed by municipal, provincial and federal governments. The city would be eligible for outright grants of $1,200,000 from the Dominion and province.

Recent ammendments to the National Housing Act provide for the Federal Government to absorb 75 percent of losses incurred in rental undertakings. The city and the provincial government could split the remaining 25 percent, each paying about $62,500 a year. The Federal Government's share would be $375,000.

Increased taxes would meet and possibly exceed the city's total contribution of $130,000 a year needed to rebuild the area on a low-rental basis.

**To Publish Report**

In his report, which is to be published soon by the University, Dr. Marsh said the "Strathcona area" described was not the worst slum in the city.

But he feels in spite of the aged, dilapidated rooming houses and former coolie shacks, the area has many features desirable for a residential area.

Survey of the 1000 homes and 7000 persons in the district was made in a house-to-house canvass in 1947.

The district is not populated by "foreigners," the report shows Thirty percent of the population is of British or North American stock and nearly all the children are Canadian-born.

Many live there because they can find no other accommdation and others like the saving on car-fare their close proximity to work affords them.

**Defective Facilities**

Report shows that of all the homes, rooming houses, apartment dwellings and cabins in the area, 52 percent have defective heating equipment or food storage facilities; 26 percent have defective exterior walls, floors or ceilings. Another 13 percent are excessively dark.

Thirteen per cent of the dwellings are damp and 9 percent are seriously afflicted with filth or smells, while another 7 percent are infected by rats, cockroaches and other vermin.

Defective washbasins, sinks, water supply, bathing facilities and toilets are also common in the area.—The Vancouver Daily Province.

## Farm Union Wins Beet Pay Rise

Washington. — The AFL National Farm Labor Union announced another historic victory in the San Joaquin Valley of California when 1,200 sugar beet workers won a wage increase for the present sugar beet season.

Last fall the union won the first cotton picker strike in California farm annals when it secured a settlement providing for wage increases of approximately $1 per day and recognition of the union as bargaining agent for about 100,000 workers.

The beet workers' strike was brought to a successful conclusion after about two weeks of picketing the huge Philip Hanson Ranch, near Corcoran, Calif. Negotiations between the union and growers were conducted under the auspices of the state conciliation service. Hanson agreed to pay the union wage rates of $12.50 per acre or $2 a row, and also pledged that there would be no discrimination against members of the National Farm Labor Union.

## A.F. of L. Won 169 Union Elections

Washington.—AFL unions won 169 collective bargaining elections in February, the National Labor Relations Board reported.

This was 67 percent of the 251 elections in which AFL unions took part. The AFL accounted for 41 percent of all union victories during the month.

The AFL took part in and won more elections than the CIO (71) and independent unions (52) combined.

## Chemical Wkrs. Raise

Portland, Ore. — Pay increases ranging from $8 to $17.50 a week were obtained for dental technicians employed in four large dental offices as a result of negotiations conducted by Local 109, Intl. Chemical Workers (AFL). The contracts also provide for one to two weeks paid vacation and six paid holidays a year.

## Hospital Employees' Union Shows Progress

The growth and development of the Hospital Employees' Federal Union, No. 180, T.L.C., over the last five years has been remarkable. To-day the Union holds fourteen contracts.

We have just recently received certification for the Powell River General Hospital. Application has been made for the Ladysmith General Hospital and the Queen Alexandra Solarium on Vancouver Island.

Contracts have been completed for the year 1950 with the Vancouver General Hospital, Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminster, Chilliwack General Hospital, West Coast General Hospital, Port Alberni, and for the "Nursing Section," King's Daughters' Hospital, Duncan, B.C.

WILLIAM BLACK
Business Agent, City Hall Employees' Union and Provincial Joint Council of Public Employees and Hospital Employees Union.

We are confronted with two Conciliation Boards; one with the North Vancouver General Hospital, the other with the Nanaimo General Hospital. After months of negotiating in these institutions, no honest effort was made by management to reach a collective agreement with the employees. With the advent of hospitalization a tremendous amount of confusion exists in bargaining. We attempt to bargain with local Boards who are taking instruction from Victoria.

**Fired and Rehired**

Valleyhaven, the Old People's Home at Chilliwack, is now certified and the ten employees are members of our organization. When the management of this civic institution heard that the employees were organizing, they immediately fired them en bloc. After intervention by our unions and with the assistance of the Department of Labor Relations, all were re-instated in their positions.

The task of organizing Hospitals has not been an easy one because of the many classifications: technicians, orderlies, nurses, etc. However, in the last five years, hundreds of workers have been organized in what was hitherto an unorganized industry. Salaries and wages have been materially improved. Pension Schemes are being initiated. Vacations with pay and statutory holidays are becoming standard perquisites. All Union contracts contain either Union Shop or Union Maintenance Clauses.

**Future Looks Bright**

For what was once considered a depressed industry, the future looks bright, with salaries approaching or beyond what is paid in related industry.

It would be difficult to devise a Union label for hospital workers; but that can be overcome by a word of encouragement when we are in hospital—an institution where, unfortunately, we go on occasion. When there, just remember that you are dealing with Union employees who are trying to give service. — W. Black, Business Agent.

## Edmonton Hotel Wkrs. Get New Agreement

Approximately 450 Edmonton hotel employees are signed to new wage and working agreements for another year, it has been announced by union business agent Joseph Cherrington.

Agreements provide for average weekly wage increases of $2 throughout, additional statutory holidays and other benefits.

Unions involved are Beverage Dispensers' Local No. 574 and hotel service employees Local No. 269 of Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Union.

## Same Idea

Chairman O'Mahoney, of the Joint Congressional Economic Committee, commenting on opposition to its proposal for a "cooling off" period in steel prices, said: "Nobody has torn his hair over proposal for a cooling off period for labor. There is no reason the same rule should not apply to concentrated industry."

The groom, slightly confused, said hesitatnly, "I was to buy either a casserole or a camisole. I can't remember which."

"That's easy enough," answered the clerk. "Is the chicken dead or alive?"


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## AFL Union Co-Op Housing To Rent At $14 Per Room

Brooklyn, N.Y.—The AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America is sponsoring a low-rental cooperative housing development in which 228 families will find relief from the discomfort of the housing problem's two extremes: apartment shortages and exorbitant rentals.

Headed by Joseph Belsky, international vice president and secretary of the Meat Cutters Union, Local 234 the project will represent the best apartments money and talent can build. Preference will be given to veterans and union members in that ordered, and the remainder will be open to the general public.

Three 6-story elevator buildings will be erected on a site of 121,800 square feet of land in an attractive residential neighborhood of Brooklyn. The apartment houses will occupy only 33 percent of the land with the remaining grounds dedicated to landscaped gardens and walks with enclosed playgrounds for the safety of the children.

The Harry Silver Apartments are named in honor of Harry Silver, a union member who sacrificed his life in the union's early struggles. His name symbolizes the highest and truest form of the spirit of unionism.

No profit in the operation of this development will accure to the union or any firm, person or association. The savings all along the line are passed on to the tenants and will be reflected in the low monthly carrying charges.

Similar accommodations, privately built and managed sell for 50 percent above the prices to be paid by the "cooperators." Mutual ownership is achieved with a down payment of $240 a room and monthly carrying charges of approximately $14 a room which includes heat, repairs, amortization, interest and maintenance.

Should a "cooperator" wish to surrender his apartment, he will be required to give the housing company prior opportunity to repurchase his interest. This is to prevent the speculative dealings in stock and the incentive for non-tenants to purchase the stock. That the development is feasible at these low attractive costs is attributable to these facts:

1. A partial tax exemption to be granted by the city through Mayor William O'Dwyer and City Construction Coordinator Robert Moses.
2. Construction program costs and management will be under the careful supervision at all times by the State Division of Housing under Commissioner Herman T. Stichman.
3. Federal Housing Administration will approve the application for mortgage insurance.
4. Financing is conditioned upon a first mortgage to be procured from the Lincoln Savings Bank of Brooklyn which will bear interest at 3½ percent for a period of 40 years.
5. The Harry Silver Apartments will be owned and operated by the occupants—there will be no profits for outside interests, and any surplus will be passed on to the tenant-owners in the form of lower future maintenance charges.

Editors Note: Material prices and construction labor wages are almost double those in Vancouver, hence a similar housing scheme here could reduce the price per room.

## I.L.O. Will Discuss Work Productivity

Geneva (ILO News Service).—A world labor-management-government discussion of ways to improve living standards through higher labor productivity will highlight the 33rd conference of the International Labor Organization when it opens at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, June 7.

This first official international debate on better wages through greater output will set a precedent.

ILO Director-General David A. Morse has invited the delegates of the trade unions, employers' organizations and governments of the 60 member countries to use the time customarily set aside for the opening general debate on his annual report for this exchange of views.

Three abpects of industrial relations also will be among the questions discussed at the conference. They are (1) collective agreements, (2) conciliation and arbitration and (3) cooperation between public authorities and workers and employers organizations.

Two other matters are also on the agenda of the June meeting for first discussion. These are the questions of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value, and that of minimum wage regulation in agriculture.

The other questions on the agenda are a general report on labor conditions in agriculture, financial and budgetary questions, and information and reports on the application by the ILO's member countries of conventions and recommendations.

The Conference will also have before it a special report by Mr. Morse on the problem of unemployment. This report was requested in a resolution adopted by last year's conference.

## Radio Executives Get Big Pensions

Detroit.—Auto workers on strike for $1200 a year pensions, including social security benefits, are contemplating the pensions Columbia Broadcasting System executives will enjoy when they are too old to work, too young to die.

Chairman Wm. S. Paley of CBS will get $30,300 a year when he can't crawl to the timeclock any more. CBS paid into the special pension fund $17,604.79 for Paley last year. Pres. Frank Stanton's pension after he no longer can produce the standard output will be $31,740 a year.

Figures are from the CBS proxy statement required by the securities and exchange commission.

"Reducing is easy! Just try living on the same diet your employees can afford!"

## Toronto Firefighters Install Cardiograph

Toronto. — Toronto firemen now, after fighting a difficult fire, can have their hearts examined under the cardiograph, and any strain detected can be given early treatment. This advance has been made possible through the purchase by the Toronto Firefighters' Union of a cardiograph at a cost of $1,000. It is the first of such machines to be installed anywhere for the protection of firemen.

The Union is hoping that the cardiograph will aid in the proof that many firemen who die while off duty actually died as the result of heart injuries suffered while on duty. Union President Don Dunlop has pointed to the record of 27 deaths in the fire department in the last decade among men who had not yet reached retirement age. In the same period another 48 died of heart ailments within three years of having retired.

Many of the firemen who died of heart conditions, the Union believes contracted the condition while actually fighting fires, yet their widows and children could not obtain pensions unless conclusive proof was provided that death resulted from injury to the heart while on duty. Since buying the cardiograph, more than 300 firemen have been examined and several have shown heart strains that had not been discovered with the stethoscope.

Final decision of the Union to purchase the machine came after the Board of Control had twice refused to purchase a cardiograph as a civic service to its firemen.

## Union Label Corner

The Union Label Trades Council is busy arranging for "Union Buying Week", Sept. 4th to 9th next.

The Vancouver City Council at their last Wednesday meeting endorsed our "Union Buying Week."

The A.F. of L. UNION INDUSTRIES SHOW (the 4th) to be held on May 6th-13th in the Convention Hall, Philadelphia, U.S.A. is the Worlds greatest Labor Management Show. Arranged by the Union Label Trades Dept. Washington, Union Firms and Employers are now making final arrangements of the grand opening. Over 500,000 people are expected to attend. Any Officers or members of our Locals here are advised what has been achieved by the co-operation of Labor and Management.

The Womens Auxiliary of Local 226 Typographical Union, No. 76 have affiliated with our Union Label Trades Council. We know this ever-active group will prove a great asset in the work of our Council.

As we wish to cover every District in Vancouver, New Westminster in fact all parts of lower mainland, we solicit any suggestions that will help put our first "Union Buying Week" over with the greatest success, from any member in these districts. Please send them to Secretary, Box 6, Labor Temple.

As we are now compiling a list of all Firms producing union goods with or without the Label in B.C. for the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, please let me know what Brands or Trade names your firm produces, so that no Firm will be left off this list.

Fraternally yours,
ED. SMITH

## Congress Convention Montreal, September 11

Ottawa.—By unanimous ballot vote of the Executive Council, the 65th Annual Convention of The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada will open in the Mount Royal Hotel in Montreal on September 11, and close on the 16th.

President Bengough on behalf of the Executive Council has asked the Montreal Trades and Labor Council to set up a local committee to handle the convention arrangements. Vice-President Claude Jodoin is also President of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council.

This year's convention of the Congress is the first to be set as to both place and time by the Executive Council. The Council received these powers under a resolution passed by the 63rd convention in Victoria. That convention voted for the last time for the next convention's city, and chose Calgary where the 64th annual convention was held September 15-23, 1949.

Despite constitutional changes made in Calgary which reduce the number of delegates entitled to attend future conventions, the expectations already are for another large attendance this year. The consideration was of prime importance in the Executive Council's decision to select Montreal where accommodation for such large meetings is obtairable.

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# Low Prices, High Wages Possible Through Co-operation

A good many of us have been scratching our heads over how we can bring prices down out of the stratosphere without dragging down our wage and living standards at the same time.

Mr. T. A. Corcoran of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the National Association of Purchasing Agents, not only thinks that it is possible but that it is highly necessary.

He told the purchasing agents' convention here the other day that lower prices and high wages are not incompatible and that smaller price tags may be the very means of continuing full employment and high wage levels.

Increased productivity is Mr. Corcoran's answer to this seeming inconsistency.

He explains present prices are too high to support the tremendous productive capacity we developed in the second war and warned that prices should be reduced.

"This necessary adjustment in prices could be made comparatively painless if we could have the co-operation of all segments of our economy, including government, labor, management and the farmers. If we could all get together in a determined effort to increase productivity we could absorb the high wages now in effect and still make the necessary cut in prices."

High prices discourage buying and encourage the accumulation of big surpluses of consumer goods. Such surpluses bring about a slow-down in our productive machinery, reduce employment and jeopardize wage standards.

High prices deprive consumers of the things they want and, at the same time, threaten the jobs and wages of those same consumers.

Lower prices encourage buying, help prevent accumulation of surpluses, guarantee fuller employment and maintenance of decent wage levels.

No Canadian can afford to ignore this simple proposition in economic reasoning.—Editorial of the Vancouver Daily Province.

## Building Trades Council Notes

(By H. W. WATTS)

The Mediation Committee set up for the purpose of going into the subject of wage increases and other subjects for seven unions affiliated with the Building Trades Council, will go into session Monday, May 1.

William Page, International Representative for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, will be the delegate for the unions, Col. J. P. Mackenzie will represent the General Contractors' Association, and Alderman Halford Wilson will be the chairman.

* * *

Ten million dollars worth of construction permits were issued in the Greater Vancouver district during the first three months of this year. This was $1,300,000 less than for the same period of 1949. The weather undoubtedly had a great deal to do with this drop in permits, but they are being issued fast now.

Burnaby and West Vancouver are hitting the high spots right now and topped the list in March.

There appears to be every indication of a fair chance to beat last year's total figures this year, as there are a lot of big jobs already in the blueprint stage.

* * *

Construction jobs all over the province appear to be on the increase. Quite a number of large projects are under way, and small jobs are helping to keep the carpenters' union members busy in all parts of the province, according to reports from the Provincial Council.

* * *

Another union has affiliated with the Building Trades Council, making a total of 29. The new local is Millworkers Union No. 1928. The union already has four agreements signed with [illegible], door, fixture and cabinet shops, and George Bengough, as organizer, has some more negotiations under way, as well as the prospects of a large group of millworkers taking out a United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners charter.

* * *

The Building Trades Council Annual Banquet, held in the Georgia Hotel, went off in a big way, in spite of the fact that the Secretary of the Council was in hospital up to a couple of days before the banquet. One of the big troubles in arranging for a banquet appears to be getting it on a date when some of our unions do not meet. On this particular night two big unions were holding their regular meetings, another big union had to call a special meeting of officers and delegates, and the Plasterers also had a banquet on the same night, hence there were quite a number of union officers and delegates who were unable to be present. New Westminster showed up in strong force, especially the Millworkers of Local No. 2534.

Next years Banquet has been booked for Friday, March 30, when it will not come on any meeting night.

* * *

The first week in July will be holiday week again this year for the building trades. This is the date agreed upon by the Building Trades Council, the General Contractors Association and the Building and Construction Industries Exchange. Start booking for the week's holiday.

* * *

Len. Millman, union despatcher for the Building Laborers' Union, has had to go to hospital, on account of heart trouble. The boys all wish him speedy recovery.

* * *

The Sign and Pictorial Painters' Union is going to launch a campaign against three anti-union firms. Your co-operation is requested. The firms are: Signkraft, David Hall Sign Co., and Sign-Ads (B. C.) Ltd.

### CARPENTERS ORGANIZE NEW DISTRICT COUNCIL

A Charter has been received from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America for the Grand River Valley District Council of Carpenters and was presented by Brother Andy Cooper, International Representative, at a meeting in Brantford, March 30th.

The newly formed Council is composed of Locals 2173, Guelph, 1940, Kitchener and 498, Brantford, and includes as territory Wellington, Waterloo, Brant and Norfolk Counties.

## Steel Competition

Is there any real competition among steel companies?

An investigation of recent steel price increases indicates there isn't. The study, made by the Joint Committee on the Economic Report, shows:

On December 16, 1949, United States Steel Co. increased its prices. Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co. and Wheeling Steel Corp. put price rises into effect on the same day.

On December 19, almost the same price changes were announced by Republic Steel Corp., Superior Steel Co., and Pittsburgh Steel Corp.

And on December 20, Bethlehem Steel Corp., Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp., Allegheny-Ludlum Steel Corp. Wheel Steel Corp. and Armen Steel Corp. raised their prices.

"Thus all the steel companies . . . raised their prices by the same amount at the same time," a committee report says.

The committee contrasts the steel situation with other businesses and comments:

". . . in retail stores not only are meats and vegetables of the same weight and quality sold at varying prices in independent stores as opposed to supermarkets, but even the most casual observer can verify that a 5-cent candy bar of identical brand and wrapping sells in Washington, D. C., retail outlets at prices ranging from 6 cents down to 3 for 13 cents."

And what's the outstanding characteristic of a competitive industry? Differences in prices, of course.

"If competition exists each buyer and each seller has a genuine choice of alternatives concerning products, prices and price policies so that he will have reasonable freedom of opportunity to shop around," the report adds.

If there were real competition in the steel industry, it would seem likely that at least one steel company would hold off price increases when all the other concerns were raising prices. Then that one company might be able to get some of the business that had been going to the others.

Yet when one company raises prices so do all the others. Why? Simply because steel companies have worked out agreements among themselves. U. S. Steel is the price leader; the other concerns follow like sheep.

---

Local 347 of the Chemical Workers has obtained a hospital and pension plan, paid holidays and other benefits in a pact with the Carborundum Company, Vancouver, Wash.

---

Local 734, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, has secured a wage boost of $2.50 a week for more than 2,000 members employed as drivers by Chicago bakeries.

---

An hourly increase of 12½ cents has been won by 1,000 members of the Laborers and Hod Carriers in a settlement with the Building Trades Employers Association of Cleveland.

---

Local 56, Butcher Workmen, has won a 5-cent hourly wage boost and other benefits in a contract recently entered into with the Bell and Evans poultry dressing plant, Camden, N.J.

---

Local 89, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, has won an 8-cent hourly wage raise under a new contract with 61 Louisville, Ky., firms.

---

Local 9, Stereotypers and Electrotypers, has won wage boosts and a 7½ hour working day in a contract reached with the Commercial Mat and Plate Shops, Detroit, Mich.

---

Local 1460, Retail Clerks, has gained a weekly wage increase amounting to $3 in a contract with the Retail Grocers Association, Gary, Ind.

---

Local 26, Teamsters, has won an 8-cent hourly wage increase and other benefits in new agreements with ten freight handlers of Danville, Ill.

---

Local 327, Hotel and Restaurant Workers, has obtained a health and welfare plan for all employees in an agreement negotiated with the Peoria, Ill., Restaurant Association.

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**Deflated**

The visiting child psychologist was giving the teacher of the second grade some good advice.

"You don't hold the interest of your pupils, Miss Jones. When they come in, I'll prove to you that they are not paying the slightest attention to what is going on."

Presently the youngsters filed in and took their places. The visitor asked the class for a number, and a little girl gave 35. The visitor, in large, clear figures, wrote 53 on the blackboard, and called for another number. Receiving 19, he wrote 91 on the blackboard, and for 47, 74. After several minutes of this, the visitor glanced triumphantly at Miss Jones, when suddenly a voice called out:

"Sixty-six. Let's see what you can do with that."

**Not In Stock**

Clerk (to customer)—"No, ma'am, we haven't had any for a long time."

Merchant, (angrily breaking in)—"We have plenty in reserve, ma'am, plenty downstairs."

The customer bursts into laughter and leaves the shop.

Merchant—"What did she say to you?"

Clerk—"We haven't had any rain lately."

**Rapid Calculator**

"These lovely little cakes," gushed the feminine visitor, "I don't know how many I've had!"

"Seven," snapped the small son of the house.

For the sake of health, medicines are taken by weight and measure; so ought food to be, or by some similar rule.—Skelton.

About the only fellow who doesn't complain about back-seat drivers is a hearse chauffeur.

Little Willie from his mirror
Licked the mercury right off,
Thinking in his childish error,
It would cure the whooping cough.
At the funeral, his mother
Smartly said to Mrs. Brown:
"'Twas a chilly day for Willie
When the mercury went down."

## What's Going On:

In Glasgow, Scotland, the Scottish National Union of Women demanded that restaurants stop giving women workers smaller portions of food than men workers. The union flatly rejected the restaurant owner's explanation that the smaller servings were to help the gals protect their figures.

In Rome, Georgia, an official of the C.I.O. Textile Workers' Union and several fellow unionists did a thriving political business while they were in jail for contempt of court during a strike at the Celanese Corp. Whenever visitors came to the county jail the T.W.U. men pointed out that the county court house was just across the street and said this would be a good time to register to vote. All their visitors did just that.

In Mahoning, Pa., union bartenders were all in favor of the coal strike because it gave the men from the tipples more time to tipple. The opinion changed when the coal shortage curtailed electricity, and the bars had to start closing down at 11 p.m.

In Lima, Peru, government bank employees were soured on revolutions for life. While they were striking for higher pay, a revolution occurred and the new government ordered them back to their jobs without any wage hike at all.

In Washington, the National Association of Manufacturers is conducting a search for an American worker who has been employed by a single company for 75 years or more. The N.A.M. hasn't said so in so many words, but it would probably prefer to find a man who had never heard of pensions.

In Madrid, Spain, union-hating Col. Robert McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, brought down his private plane for a visit with Dictator Franco and, in the year's most ironic bumble, had to be advised that his plane was decorated with the flag of the Spanish Republic, which Fascist Franco destroyed.

In Washington, Rep. John Rankin, of Mississippi, proposed that the U.S. Capitol be moved to Paducah, Ky., near the Mammoth Cave. The only reaction to the proposal came from a pro-labor Congressman, who wondered how the other bats would like it.

In Chicago a grave vault company was slapped down by an arbitrator who ruled that the firm could not impose penalties on union workers for tardiness unless it changed the "shop rules," and it couldn't change the "shop rules" without the union's permission.

In Detroit, Mayor Cobo wondered what he could expect from John L. Lewis as he started investigating a huge salt mine beneath the city which could be used to shelter 100,000 people in case of bombing.

In San Francisco unionists got a new insight into the mind of Economist Roger Babson, who has proclaimed that organized labor is leading the country to ruin. Babson, who also ran for President of the U. S. on the Prohibition party ticket several times, last week proposed that food shortages could be ended if everyone ate chocolate-covered sardines, chocolate-covered herrings and chocolate-covered codfish!

**MACHINISTS INVITED**

Washington.—AFL President William Green has sent a formal invitation to the International Association of Machinists to reaffiliate its 600,000 members with the AFL.

The invitation was authorized by the AFL Executive Council at its Miami meeting.

**HOSTESSES GAIN**

Chicago.—The second renewal of an employment agreement between Mid-Continent Airlines, Inc., and its hostesses represented by the AFL Air Line Stewards and Stewardesses Association provides new rates of pay to start at $180 per month and progressively advance to $225 per month for the sixth year of service and thereafter. This represents an increase of 4 percent over 1949 rates. A 25-cent increase was made in the dinner allowance and 85 hours of flying is the monthly maximum for hostesses.

**EXPAND PRICING**

Washington. — The U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics is collecting retail prices for about 110 food items now absent from the Consumers Price Index. Pricing of these foods is being conducted on an experimental basis for about 18 months as part of a Congressionally directed revision of the C.P.I. The index is being revised so that it will reflect more clearly what consumers are buying today.

**INCOME TAX EXEMPTION ON FUNERAL EXPENSES**

The Trades Council will forward to Congress a suggestion from Beverage Dispensers Union, Local No. 676 that funeral expenses up to the amount of $300.00 be exempt from income tax. Bro. Mills cited a case of one of his members who did deduct funeral expenses from his income tax but after two years has been notified that he owes $1100.00.

More than 3½ million babies were born in the U.S. last year, 1% above the 1948 total but under the 1947 record of 3,699,240.

In January, life insurance companies in the U.S. bought $54 million worth of corporate stock.

The first Labor deputation to wait upon the Prime Minister of Canada did so in May, 1873.

The A.F. of L. Textile Workers have won pensions and other benefits in an agreement with the Goodyear Rubber Company's Rockmart, Ga., plant.

The Butcher Workmen have won bargaining rights at three plants of Darling and Company, Chicago.

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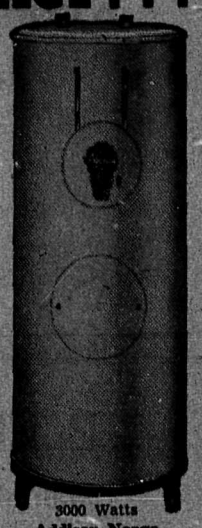

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## B. C. Fruit, Vegetable Workers in Convention

Penticton.—The fourth annual convention of the Federation of Fruit and Vegetable Workers meeting here asked that new markets be found for the products of the Valley in order that Canadians may enjoy the highest degree of employment and prosperity in the years ahead.

During the two-day meeting of the Federation, which represents over 3,000 workers in the fruit and vegetable industry in the Okanagan Valley, the delegates urged a nation-wide housing and low-rental home building scheme.

The convention considered and adopted a four-year working agreement with the fruit industry. The new agreement embodied a wage formula for the same period.

President Valair urged the membership to accept the wage formula and to help make it work to the advantage of all. "We would urge that our entire membership under the jurisdiction of the industry with agreements endeavour to understand fully the mechanics of the formula and to strive to make it work effectively," he said. Proof of the acceptance of the new formula by the membership had been more than obvious in the great increase in membership since the signing of the agreement with the industry. The Federation now has more than 3,000 members, an increase of more than 2,200 since the Federation was formed just over three years ago. Thirty-nine plants are now organized as against only seventeen in 1946.

A high point in wages paid in the Okanagan Valley was reached in the latest agreement made with the Canadian Canners Ltd. Following the attainment through the negotiations of one and one-half cents across the board, the rates for women are now 67½ cents an hour and for men 83½ cents

The convention elected a new President of the Federation, D. R. Leckie of Kelowna to succeed the retiring President, Lionel Valair of Vernon. A. T. Kobayashi was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer.

Turning to the immediate problems of the Federation's members in the Valley's greatest industry, the convention turned down a resolution calling for the extension of the packing season. Retiring President Valair in opposing the resolution said that the only way the season could be extended was through the erection of additional cold storage plants. "Under the wage formula, you would pay part of this," he said. "I think it would be to the detriment of the worker." Organizer W. H. Sands suggested that unless the fruit is handled as quickly as possible the employee will lose out in the long run.

## Assault Upon Ontario Labor Relations Act

A renewed assault upon the Ontario Labor Relations Act, described by labor spokesmen as permitting employers to fire workers for union activity with impunity, was a highlight of the sessions of the Ontario Provincial Federation of Labor.

The convention speaking for 200,000 unionists in Ontario affiliated with either the A.F. of L. or T.L.C. unions, recommended a province-wide campaign by the Federation to rally opposition to the Act.

Bruce Magnuson, Lumber and Sawmill Workers, Sudbury, said the Ontario government had seriously affronted labor by refusing to implement any of the federation's recommendations for changes in the act.

"Some steps will have to be taken to enforce justice between employers and employees," he said. "Responsibility for deterioration in relations rests with the provincial government.

J. W. Bruce international representative of the Plumbers' and steamfitters' Union, said the building trades unions are opposed to coming under the act.

The building trades unions had gained their present conditions by being able to stop a job when required, he said. But the delaying process made possible under the act has robbed the unions of their freedom of action, Mr. Bruce stated. He also objected to government-appointed conciliators in the industry.

## Grain Elevator Agents Are Being Organized

An effort is being made by the Grain Elevator Agents of Alberta to organize under the banner of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada in an organization which is expected to bring about furtherance of mutual understanding between the Organized Farmer and Organized Labor .

In a letter recently received from the Executive Board of the Farmers' Union of Canada, dated January 2, 1950, the Board advises that it has no objection to organizing of the Grain Elevator Agents. The Board letter states in part: "They (the Board) believe that only through an organization of this kind can better understanding prevail between the farmer and the elevator companies."

## Bill Wilson Busy Organizing in Alberta

We have been really happy to work with our previous organizer companion, Bill Wilson, the A. F. of L. representative from Vancouver. Bill is carrying on his reputation as a hard worker while he has been in Calgary for the past two weeks, and, in conjunction with the other business agents, a tremendous amount of spade work and organizing membership cards have been signed up.—Gordon Wilkinson, Organizer, Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, in The (Calgary) Call.

Throckmorton: "Do you think someone can really tell the future by looking at cards?"

Al: "Mom can. She took one look at my report card and told me just what would happen when Pop got home!"

## Correspondence

1946 W Broadway,
Vancouver

Editor,
Labor Statesman,
Dear Sir,

Replying to letter in your last issue signed by Mrs. M. Jones, which I read with much interest, especially her statement that the many articles appearing in the Statesman resulted in making her "Union Label" concious. Her capable manner in citing her position as purchasing agent of the partnership of Jones and Jones, can be noted by the many hundreds of such partnerships within our movement, who like her, should be eager to spend union earned dollars on union made goods and services.

The Vancouver union label trades council have for over Thirty Years been doing everything possible to give the information she desires through co-operation of the management of the Labor Statesman, who have appealed continuously to all affiliated unions for data re. union made goods and services produced by their respective unions to assist the Lady pardners when shopping, but for some reason fail to co-operate.

Mr. Jones (if he is a Union member) maybe like many others, fails to help her with the information she desires as from time to time all unions have been sent lists of union firms, their products, along with names of City Merchants selling these goods and services, which includes most of the items mentioned in her letter.

The writer being mostly responsible for articles appearing in the "Statesman" dealing with patronizing union label goods etc., fully realizes that our Lady pardners spend fifty percent or more of the family income and it is their support that he is very desirous of getting, for as she says it is of great advantage to trade unionism. I, as well as our council, would like to see a great many more like her who realizes the value to organized labor of supporting the union label and all it stands for.

It is a pleasure to me to read such a constructive letter as Mrs. M. Jones wrote to you, and I would be glad to give her further information if she would write me.

Fraternally yours
ED. SMITH.

P.S. For the information of Mrs. M. Jones and all members of affiliated unions The Vancouver, New Westminster Union Label Trades Council is holding a "Union Buying Week" Sept. 4th to 9th., which will be proclaimed by the Mayor and City Council, when stores in these districts will have window displays of Union made goods etc, and request their whole hearted support.

2594 Bellevue Ave.
West Vancouver, B. C.
April 5th, 1950

Copy of letters sent to daily press. The Sun refusing to publish any part of it.

Dear Sir:

Permit me to submit for publication, an outline of letter sent to the Hon. W. T. Straith, Acting-Provincial Secretary, protesting "Carte Blanche" powers the Provincial Government has bequeathed institutional psychiatrists.

Like the imposition of other measures and the juggling of the Hospital Insurance scheme to further [illegible] in the economic totem-pole, this is another illustration how democracy can become saturated with Hitlerism.

The vested powers release all brakes relatives had upon possible use of patients as guinea-pigs. That institutional authorities have demanded these powers, after constantly refusing treatments and resumption of treatises proven beneficial to patients, places them in a ludicrous light.

In 1942, Canadian psychiatrists were unwilling to concede the values of pre-frontal lobotomy, proven beneficial in the U.S.A. for cases formerly considered hopeless. Yet today, 2 years after capitulating to the need and performing many operations, it is quite possible the doctors are gripped with the mania to bore and carve into the brains of all patients, regardless. When one takes into consideration the amount of wrecks, and mortalities that reached 40 percent a few years ago, after being subjected to lobotomy, the operation doesn't stand out as a cure-all for mental diseases.

All democractic people should demand the abolishment of these insidious carte-blanche powers

Yours sincerely,
W. E. BURT.

## Victoria Printers Get Wage Boost

Victoria, B.C. (CP)—Victoria local of the International Typographical Union (A.F.L.T.L.C.) has signed agreements granting wage boosts of nine cents an hour with the city's two daily newspapers—The Times and The Colonist.

The new agreement, retroactive to Jan. 31, calls for two more holidays with pay.

Under the new scale, day workers will get $1.76 an hour and night workers will get $1.88 an hour.

Some of the oldsters in the shop were swapping tall stories. One, who had once been in Alaska, boasted, "I was so cold up there, that the candle froze and we couldn't blow it out."

"That's nothing," replied another, from the upper regions of Canada. "Where I was, the words came out of our mouths in pieces of ice, and we had to fry them to see what we were talking about."

"Ruth," moaned her long-suffering husband, "you promised you wouldn't buy a new dress. What made you do it?"

"Dear," replied the modern Eve, "the devil tempted me."

"Why didn't you say "Get thee behind me, Satan'?" the poor man inquired.

"I did," the woman replied sweetly, "and then he whispered over my shoulder: "My dear, it fits you just beautifully in the back."


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# Business Shows No Signs Of Slackening in the United States

**NORMAL COMPETITION NOW** has the right-of-way in the United States. Prices are being slashed in many lines—not because of decreasing sales—but because competition is getting back to normal, as in the good old days, when the purchaser could shop around for a satisfactory price.

In its Business Roundup, Fortune says:

Retail sales were running about even with a year ago, and since the consumer demand seemed solidly buttressed by an unprecendented construction boom, business confidence coursed ahead and commitments were lengthened accordingly.

In Chicago a poll of purchasing agents revealed that one out of every three firms was now buying ninety days or more in advance, that inventories, which a year ago were being liquidated, were now being maintained, that order backlogs were increasing, deliveries slowing, that fewer firms than at any time since October, 1948, were cutting production.

February construction, though down 5 percent from January, was 21 percent higher than a year ago.

**The Markets**

Prices during the month conformed to no over-all pattern. The wholesale commodity index rose slightly, but the cost of living declined. Westinghouse cut the price of its washing machines, Argus knocked down its cameras. On the other hand, where the cost of new pension programs or raw materials had forced costs up, prices rose. Thus tiremakers warned of another 10 to 12 percent price boost. Raw materials, too, responded to individual market conditions. Lead, under pressure of large imports, slumped to 10½ cents a pound compared with a postwar high of 21 cents. Zinc went up as galvanizers upped their output. Only where the government intervened was the market frustrated:

In New York, R. H. Macy & Co. took a quiet but effective swipe at another type of price fixing. Alert shoppers at Macy's Thirty-fourth Street store suddenly discovered that they could buy brand-name electric appliances below the "fair-trade" price. Surprisingly, none of the manufacturers whose resale prices were violated took any immediate retaliatory action. The reason: Macy's had compiled an impressive list of New York "discount" houses where the same products have long been available at 20 to 25 percent off the advertised list price. Obviously, before Macy's could be effectively attacked, manufacturers would have to crack down on the discount houses.

**Doubtful Dangers**

The one ominous-looking economic thunderhead was unemployment, which in February rose to 4,684,000, the highest point since 1941. Not counting those idled by strikes, that was an increase of 204,000 over January. Actually, however, the employment picture was far from dark. Not only was the rise largely attributable to seasonal factors and strike dislocations, it was also reassuringly small compared to February, 1949, when jobless rose two and a half times as much. More significantly, employment remained near peak levels — actually higher than a year ago. The longe-range need, clearly, was for business to expand sufficiently to absorb an annually growing labor force. But despite official predictions that unemployment might soon pass the mythical five-million danger point, it seemed more probable now, that the seasonal low point was past, that it would slack off at least for a few months.

A smaller storm cloud was the textile industry. Cotton and rayon mills were industriously spinning away, filling orders placed months ago, but clothing sales were poor and one New York clothing chain cut its pries 40 percent in an effort to stimulate sales. It seemed likely, therefore, that once textile mills worked off their backlogs some might again be shut down.

**Seven Million Cars?**

Detroit headed toward the biggest quarter in its history. Even with Chrysler shut down, the industry was producing at an annual rate of six million cars; including Chrysler, it was capable of turning out more than seven million this year. Ford, Chevrolet, Oldsmobile, Buick, Studebaker, and Mercury all set new February production records. People flocked to the industry shows, which were revived for the first time since the war. In Chicago the show grossed $500,000. In Des Moines, 40,000 visitors were expected — 79,000 showed up.

There were, however, some slight but unmistakable signs that the industry was racing toward the end of the sellers' market. Dealers were again selling "new-used" cars below list. G.M. shaved its car prices but Studebaker made more substantial cuts. Bidding for the low-price market, Nash announced a $1,200 model (cheapest comparable Chevrolet: $1,320). Kaiser-Frazer's "cheap" car, due in June, was expected to carry a tag of $1,224 to $1,324.

**Trouble for Texans**

Independent oil producers were in an unpleasant predicament. Cutbacks in "allowable" production had thus far kept crude oil prices up in the face of the world oil glut, but they had sharply reduced the income of oil producers. Texas operators, their output slashed nearly 30 percent since 1948, were in a tight spot.

**Over the Falls**

With some of the sentiment of honeymooners, the U.S. and Canada last month signed a fifty-year treaty to harness the fabulous, and largely wasted, power of Niagara Falls. Biggest internationally hydroelectric project in history, the proposed Niagara installations will total 3,300,000 kw, close to two and a half times the present capacity.* The development —which leaves the grandeur of the falls unspoiled—is expected to reduce power costs on the U.S. side by one-third to one-half.

On the surface, these were prospects to cheer. But hardly had the ink dried than the familiar question arose: who would develop the power, public or private interests? The State Department had concerned itself solely with equal sharing of the potential power.

Niagara Mohawk Power, which already operates three of the seven Niagara power plants, was anxious to take over the development and had plans for a $150-million to $175-million expansion program. But the federal Power Commission, which would have to pass on the licensing of Niagara Mohawk, had its own plan for a $300-million public project. Harry Truman left no doubt where he stood: "A public development as far as I am concerned."

*Other major North American hydroelectric installations: Grand Coulee 1,900,000 kw, Hoover 1,300,000, Bonneville 518,400.

# School Teachers Hold Congress Affiliation

The Vancouver Secondary School Teachers' Association, delegates reported that at the recent Teachers' Convention a resolution had been brought forward asking that the Teachers' Federation review their affiliations with organized labor with a view to withdrawing from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. This resolution was voted down after very strong argument by many delegates and particularly T. Alsbury, F. Templeton and J. Sutherland. The delegate pointed out that he would like the delegates to support the teachers to the limit. It was pointed out that there was some discussion during the Convention to the effect that Councils in other cities were not favorable to having teachers in affiliation.

Delegate T. Alsbury, V.S.S.T.A., reported stating that he was glad that the teachers had voted down the inaccurate resolution calling for review of their affiliation with Congress and he pointed out that the manner in which the resolution was voted down in the Convention indicated that the teachers were satisfied with labor's support. He expressed the wish that they could have more locals affiliated with Councils throughout the Province. He hoped that Congress would take the advice of this Council and take active steps to have Teachers affiliated across Canada.

# Curtail Rise In The Cost of Living in Canada

The following resolution from Machinists Lodge No. 692 was endorsed by the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council.

Whereas the purchasing power of a dollar now paid to the wage earner is becoming less and less in value due to sharper and constant rise in the price of commodities; and

Whereas trade union organizations are forced to pursue a policy to make greater demands upon management for higher wages to meet the rise in prices in order to survive; and,

Whereas all these demands on the part of labor while fully necessary are the cause of much friction between labor and management and without doubt has a demoralizing affect on industry and the economy of our country.

Be It Therefore Resolved that we, the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, call upon the government of Canada to take drastic action to curtail any further rise in the cost of living and to put an immediate stop to all unreasonable exploitation of the consumer.

**LABOR MAN ELECTED**

Sioux City, Iowa. — Labor-backed Mayor Dan J. Conley was returned to office after a bitter battle against the public utilities which was considered one of the hottest city election contests since the time of Wallace Short. Short championed labor's cause as mayor in the early 1920's.

Local 23, Office Workers International Union, has won a $5 monthly wage increase for members employed at the Tacoma Hotel, Tacoma, Wash.

The Flint Glass Workers have secured a health and accident insurance program and other benefits for 1,500 members employed by manufacturers.

# Political Education Committee Activities

Secretary R. K. Gervin reported to the Trades Council for the committee on Political Education as follows:

Your committee wish to report that they are presently compiling a report of the stand taken by Aldermen of the City of Vancouver and members of the Legislature for the Province of British Columbia on the question of union security. When compiled, this information will be published in the Labor Statesman.

The next Labor Forum over Station CKWX, Tuesday, May 2nd, will be devoted to this subject.

Your committee recommend that: Mr. R. A. MacDougall, M.L.A. for Vancouver-Point Grey, Mr. Don Brown, M.L.A. for Vancouver-Burrard be invited to attend the next Council meeting as the first in a series of speakers on political subjects, providing that it is agreed by the delegates that such speakers as are invited be given a courteous hearing and that delegates refrain from any form of demonstration.

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## Union Raiding Scored By Trades Council

Upon the recommendation of the Executive of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, endorsation was given to a communication from the Street Railwaymen's Union, Division 101, in which the union went on record as being opposed to the raiding of trade unions by other trade union groups.

While the communication did not specify any particular instance, speakers from the Street Railwaymen's Union and other unions drew attention to the method by which the Steel Workers Union (CIO) had attempted to sign up employees of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. at Trail, B. C. who were, or had been, members of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union (CIO).

## Edmonton Civic Workers In Wage Dispute

About 800 Edmonton city employees have asked provincial authorities to conciliate in a wage dispute between their union and the City of Edmonton.

The workers, employees of the engineering, parks, waterworks, purchasing, airport and garage departments, are members of Edmonton Civic Employees' Union, Local 30.

## Garment Workers Announce Banquet

Winnipeg. — Sam Herbst, representative of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, has announced that Local 216 of this city will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its founding on September 22nd. The occasion will be marked by a gala banquet for more than 1,200 persons in the Civic Auditorium.

## Drug Employers In Alberta Get Wage Boost

New work and wage agreement entailing a six-dollar monthly raise for 28 union employees at Alberta National Drug Company warehouse has been signed between Teamsters Union and the company.

### AFL WINNING CIO WAREHOUSE WORKERS

San Francisco.—Rank and file majorities have signed AFL membership pledge cards in more than 130 warehouses and plants in the Bay Area.

The successful organizing drive sponsored by AFL warehousemen followed a bolt of officers and rank and file members from the CIO International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union in protest against "appeasement" and "sell-out" policies ordered by alleged Stalinists within the CIO union.

### AFL WINS RENT BATTLE

San Diego.—The intense battle of the AFL in San Diego to prevent decontrol of rents was brought to a successful climax when the city council voted down a motion for decontrol.

AFL Central Labor Council officials led the anti-decontrol struggle before the city council and carried on an educational campaign for the benefit of the general public.

". . . Is it wrong for the farmer to accept a price support subsidy for producing the most essential product of all—food—and right for the manufacturer to accept the subsidy of a Government air mail contract—or the publisher to accept the [illegible] postage concessions?" Agriculture Knox T. Hutchinson.

### WIN 5 CENTS AN HOUR

Toronto, Ohio.—A 5-cents-an-hour general increase in wages has been awarded employees of the Toronto Paper Manufacturing Co. under a new agreement between the company and Jefferson Local 495 of the AFL International Brotherhood of Paper Makers.

### LOGGERS REQUEST INSURANCE RIGHTS

Ottawa.—Prime Minister St. Laurent and his Government are the recipients of a petition presented by the Lumber and Sawmill Workers asking "unemployment insurance coverage for workers in the pulpwood and logging industry of Eastern Canada." The petition carried 4,077 signatures.

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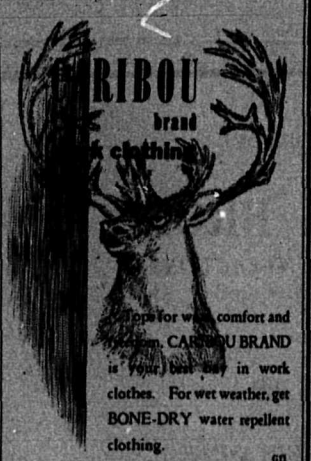


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The young suitor was going through the formality of asking for the hand of his prospective bride.

"So you want to become my son-in-law?" asked the father grumpily."

"Frankly, no," replied the suitor. "but I don't see any way out of it if I marry your daughter."

Officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue received from a recently naturalized citizen the following note after sending his an income tax form:

"Dear Treasury: I got your application blank, but I already belong to several good order and do not care to join your income tax at this time."

A wise fellow stepping up to the bus as it stopped the other morning said to the driver:

"Well, Noah, is the Ark full?"

The motorman answered back "Nope, we need one more monkey. Come on in."

And a diplomat is one who can tell you to go to hell so pleasantly that you're anxious to get started.

Note: The Editor frequently tells me to go there but he's no diplomat.

The parking space across the street is what disappeared while you were making a U-turn.

"Pop, what does it mean when it says a man attends a convention as a delegate-at-large?"

"That means his wife wasn't along."

Politician: "Did your paper say I was a liar and a scoundrel?"

Editor: "It did not."

Politician: "Well, some paper in this town said so."

Editor: "It may have been our competitor down the street. We never print stale news."


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## Provincial Government Refuses Application for Charter Amendment

We are not surprised by the report from Victoria stating that the charter amendment to give Vancouver civic workers the right to bargain for the union shop, was turned down.

We are very pleased to note that 17 members of the House had enough spunk to stand up and vote for our civil rights. According to the papers, A. R. McDougall, Coalitionist for Vancouver Point-Grey, led the forces opposing the measure. Mr. McDougall is quoted as saying that "known communists have asked for this amendment" and that "there are some communists on the inside and outside staff of the City of Vancouver."

In other words, our claim is so just that Mr. McDougall cannot vote against us without trying to make the issue "Communism."

DONALD GUISE — Business Agent

By this measure, Attorney-General Wismer, who voted for the amendment last year and this year, is a "fellow traveller." This Union, Local 28, is not a Union of Coalitionists, CCF'ers, or Communists. It is a Union of civic workers certified under the labor law of the province and bargaining under this law.

We maintain it is a gross injustice that we are bound by all the penalties and restrictions of the Labor Code of this province but are not allowed to bargain for the union shop on the same basis as other workers covered by the ICA Act.

This fight is only beginning. We are not going to wait until next year when the House meets again. While we supported the proposed amendment to the City Charter( despite the lukewarm attitude of the City's representatives in Victoria) we do not believe that any impartial body competent to deal with this question would rule that ICA Act covers us in its entirety. Therefore it is our intention to seek a show-down on this question in the year 1950.

Donald Guise, Business Agent.

## Civic Employees' Efforts To Obtain Union Shop

The question of the Union Shop for Vancouver Civic Employees has been up since 1943, when the Vancouver Civic Federation, embracing all Civic Unions in the City, carried

What the Unions asked for then was a Union Shop whereby all employees automatically joined their respective unions after a probationary period of three months, and remained members as a condition of employment. Such an arrangement, in effect at the Vancouver General Hospital, does not infringe on the employers right to discipline or discharge for proper cause.

Such a form of union security was permissable under the labor code of that day, and is permissable under the labor code of this day. Further, this union bargained under the labor code of 1943, and bargains under the labor code of 1950.

In 1945, 1949 and 1950, the City applied for charter power to enter into Union Security agreements. The proposal was turned down in 1948 and 1949, and it looks like history will repeat itself in 1950. This Union supported the City in 1949 and 1950, because we feel that this is one way out of a legal jungle.

But we feel that such Charter power is not necessary, because the ICA Act, under which the City bargains with us, has a Section 7 which reads as follows:

"Nothing in this Act shall be construed to preclude the parties to a collective agreement from inserting in the collective agreement a provision, requiring as a condition of employment, membership in a specified trade union or employees' organization, or granting preference of employment to members of a specified trade union or employees' organization, or to preclude the carrying-out of such provisions."

This is our position in a nut-shell. We bargain under the ICA Act, and we are legally bound by its prohibitions, restrictions and penalties. Therefore, we maintain, we are legally entitled to enjoy the benefits of bargaining under Section 7. We fail to see how the City, a registered corporation under the law can legally pin-point section 7, and say, in effect: We accept all other sections of this provincial code, but not this one.

We are not asking you to pass judgement on the issue of the union shop versus the non-union shop. We are asking you to agree that it is grossly unfair that we should be placed in a legal category where we have no rights to even bargain for the Union Shop. Thus, the issue is one of civil rights for Vancouver Civic Workers.

Don Guise, Business Agent. Jack Phillips Secretary.

---

A sign on a stocking counter reads: "These Nylons Will Look Better on Your Legs Than on Our Hands."

## Truman Proposes Jobless Pay Rise To $42 Per Week

Washington. — President Truman urged Congress to overhaul the unemployment insurance system, including extension of coverage to 6,000,000 more workers and a rise in the amount and duration of benefits.

In extending coverage, Mr. Truman would take into the system about 3,500,000 employees of small companies, 1,700,000 federal government employees, about 500,000 workers who are paid on a commission basis and about 200,000 workers on jobs of an industrial nature connected with agriculture.

To correct what he called the "inadequacy of benefits," Mr. Truman proposed country-wide minimum levels for amounts and duration of benefits. Maximum weekly benefits in the states now range from $15 to $27 for single persons. Some states provide for dependents allowances. The average benefits for the country as a whole were just over $20 a week in 1949.

Mr. Truman proposed these standards: benefits for single persons should approximate 50 percent of normal earnings, up to a maximum of at least $30 a week. Additional allowances should be granted for dependents. The proportion of previous earnings replaced would vary with the number of dependents up to a maximum of 70 percent of wages, or $42, whichever is lower, for a person with three or more dependents.

Maximum duration of benefits varies among the states from 12 to 26 weeks. The average in 1949 was less than 13 weeks. Nearly 2,000,000 workers exhausted their rights to benefits before finding another job.

Mr. Truman said that benefits should be available for at least 26 weeks in a year. He said it was estimated that "under my proposal, the number of workers who exhausted their benefits in 1949 would have been only half as large as it was."

---

## Site Construction Wage Check Near

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Dept. of Labor has recently undertaken a study of the "Elements of Housing Construction, Cost," which will be of great interest to building tradesmen.

The study is a very limited one, covering only a few of the larger cities throughout the country. It is intended to provide information on the relative importance of the cost of labor and materials in the construction of typical one-family houses in the cities selected for study.

What constitutes a typical house in a given area will be determined by another study now under way by the Bureau, in which the characteristics of new housing in 15 major metropolitan areas will be analyzed. The first report under this study has been issued, on housing in the metropolitan area of Washington, D.C., during the third quarter of last year.

The present study will be comparable to two previous studies made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In 1946-47 a study of the labor cost in new housing built in 18 industrial areas was made, and the results were published last year.

A previous study had been made in 1931-32. Payroll at the site both [illegible] accounted for slightly less than a third of total construction cost of new housing, except on WPA projects included in the earlier study, on which labor cost was considerably above that figure.

This proves that wages have not increased out of proportion with the increases in material prices and other cost in the 15-year period between the two studies. For the purpose of these studies the BLS has defined construction cost as including only the cost of labor, materials and subcontracted work, and that part of the builder's overhead and profit chargeable directly to the construction project.

It does not include sales profit, selling costs, cost of land and site improvements, and all such non-construction expenses as architectural and engineering fees.

The study made in 1946-47 covered 1,760 dwelling units, 1,191 in one-family structures and 569 in multi-family structures. The one-family houses were included in 295 projects and the multi-family in 41 projects within the 18 areas the study covered. All the housing was built by contractors, either for occupancy by the owner or for sale or rental. In no cases was a study made of a house in which the owner himself did any of the work.

The study showed, as was to be expected, that the site payroll, as a percentage of construction costs, declines as the size and the cost of the house increases. The study also showed that labor cost in relation to total cost, on the average, was greater on large-scale operations than on small-scale projects, for both one-family and multi-family housing.

---

Some dogs have won their fame by playing chess — a silly game. Other mutts have made their mark by summing numbers with a bark. These pooches can have all that junk, for what they're doing is the bunk. Mine don't tell jokes—he don't like gags; beneath his eyes there are no bags. He has no pessimistic qualms, for he's working on atomic bombs.

---

Three Boy Scouts reported that they had done a a good deed—they had helped a lady across the street.

"Yes," said the scoutmaster, "that was a good deed. But why did it take all three of you?"

"Because," explained one of the trio, "she didn't want to go."

---

Lady: "Why don't you arrest that nudist colony that is disgracing this neighborhood?"

Sheriff (something of a wag)—"I would, but it's awful hard to get anything on them."

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# A. F. of L. Urges Raise In Unemployed Benefits

Washington.—AFL President William Green urged that Congress adopt at this session President Truman's proposal to increase the coverage of the unemployment compensation act, raise the benefits paid thereunder and extend the number of weeks for payments.

Mr. Green told Mr. Truman that the latter's message to Congress on April 6 requesting these improvements "accurately appraised the points at which improvement is needed."

"I wholeheartedly support your request that Congress adopt these improvements during this session," Mr. Green wrote Mr. Truman. He said:

"On behalf the 8,000,000 working people in the American Federation of Labor I wish to congratulate you on the timely message on the subject of unemployment insurance which you sent to the Congress.

"The wage earners of America know that economic security is attained through production of goods and that the stability of our system depends on jobs. Their desire is first of all to have work at good wages and under good conditions. During the war and the years following they have amply demonstrated their willingness to produce the goods and services necessary to maintaining a sound economy. Their hope is that the opportunity to work afforded by full employment will continue.

"At the same time they recognize that in a free economy there will be movement and change that bring about breaks in employment. They want to be assured against loss of income when these occur. They realize also that maintenance of purchasing power sufficient to meet the necessities of life for those who are out of work through no fault of their own can contribute to preventing the spread of unemployment and help to keep it from leading to a disastrous depression.

"The states have not yet measured up to the opportunity of providing adequate protection against unemployment, and with the number of unemployed now nearly 5,000,000 it is necessary for the federal government to assume leadership through the introduction of federal minimum standards applicable to the state laws.

"Your message accurately appraised the points at which improvement is needed and offered practical solutions to the problems. As president of the American Federation of Labor I wholeheartedly support your request that the Congress adopt these improvements during this session."

Mr. Truman's recommendations would:

1. Extend coverage to take into the unemployment compensation system 3,500,000 employees of small companies 1,700,000 federal government employees; 500,000 workers paid on a commission basis, and 200,000 jobs of an industrial nature connected with agriculture.
2. Correct "inadequacy of benefits" by increasing benefits paid for single persons up to at least $30 per week and for a person with three or more dependents up to $42 a week, for at least 30 weeks.
3. Provide benefits for workers who move from one state to another.
4. Revise and improve federal and state laws covering fraud and disqualifications.
5. Improve financing of unemployment insurance partly to help states whose funds are threatened with exhaustion.

Mr. Truman urged Congress to act this year because state legislatures will have to enact their own laws to fit any new federal requirements and most of these bodies will meet in 1951.

The need is expected to be greater next winter also. Unemployment totaled 4,123,000 in March and is expected to rise. The AFL estimates the 1950 average may be 5,000,000 unemployed.

## Milk Drivers' Fund Becomes Effective

New York.—Fifteen thousand milk drivers and dairy employees in the New York - New Jersey - Connecticut metropolitan area will receive protection under the first industry-wide welfare fund in the milk industry, effective April 1.

Terms of the welfare "package" were agreed upon by representatives of 210 milk distributors and 5 locals of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

David Kaplan, chief economist for the parent union, said he expected the program to become a model for similar egreements in other parts of the country.

The employers put up 10 cents an hour to finance pensions and insurance benfits for their employees.

Six cents an hour is being earmarked for pensions. The other 4 cents will be used to provide each worker with a $2,5000 group life insurance policy, Blue Cross hospital insurance for himself, his wife and dependent children and weekly sickness benefits of $40 a week, with a maximum of 26 weeks' benefit for any one period of disability.

Because the program provides more substantial benefits than those prescribed under the disability insurance laws of New York and New Jersey, milk drivers and other covered employees in the two states will not have to pay the employee taxes established under their laws. The New Jersey tax amounts to three-fourths of 1 percent. The New York employee tax will become one-half of 1 percent on July 1.

## Real Estate Lobby Likes Subsidies for No One But Itself

Sometimes we wonder how real estate lobbyists can look themselves in the face when they shave each morning.

Although the real estate industry is building about 50 percent of its houses with the aid of Government subsidies every time they are proposed in the people's—and not solely the mortgage banker's—interests.

The Reconstruction Finance Corp., is buying real estate mortgages at the rate of $1 billion a year.

Real estate interests, bankers and other lenders are unloading their bad mortgages on the Government and keeping the good.

If that isn't subsidy, we're a real estate lobbyist!—(LLPE).

## Humber Council Gains 59th Charter

Corner Brook, Nfld. — The 59th Trades and Labor Council charter of The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has just been issued to the Humber Trades and Labor Council here. The decision of the Council to seek direct affiliation to the Congress was made on December 4th.

The first charter issued by the Congress to a Trades Council went to the Nelson Trades and Labor Council in 1900. Since that date several charters have been issued to Councils that for one reason or another later disbanded. There are now, with the advent of the Humber Trades and Labor Council, fifty-nine functioning Trades Councils under charters from the Congress in as many industrial and mining centres of the ten provinces of Canada.

An ideal sometimes becomes an ordeal after marriage.

A carpenter contributed this gag: A woozy gent at the phone asked: "Is dis Spruce, tree, tree, tree, tree?"

And the answer, "No. This is Walnut, fir, fir, fir, fir."

"Excuse it please. Wrong lumber."

## Business Grows Rich Under Fair Deal

Amid cries of alarm by businessmen comes this report from the U.S. News & World Report, published by the violently anti-labor David Lawrence:

"American corporations, as a group, are rolling in money. In four postwar years they have invested $60 billion in new plant and equipment; they have increased other assets by $11 billion; they have added $21 billion to reserves for depreciation, and they still have $40 billion in cash and Government bonds on hand."

Is that growth under the Fair Deal socialism?

## Radio Broadcasts On Union Negotiations

Vancouver taxpayers and trade unionists are going to get first hand reports of the current wage negotiations between the City and 1500 Outside Civic Workers. The Outside Civic Workers have leased eight, 5-minute radio spots for a period from the 21st of April to the 16th of May. Broadcasts will be at 7 p.m. every Friday and Tuesday over C.K.M.O. and union spokesmen will inform the public of the union's demands and the progress in negotiations.

A Conciliation Board has been set up and Mr. Hugh S. Bird of Vancouver, will represent the Union.

The Union is desirous of keeping the public of Vancouver fully informed about the current negotiations. As far as the Union is concerned there is nothing secret or hush-hush about the Union's demands or the hearings of the Conciliation Board. The membership feel that their demands are fully justified and that no honest taxpayer would object if he was fully informed.

These radio broadcasts flow from the general policy of the Vancouver Civic Employees', Local 28, which is to give good service to the public in return for good wages and good working conditions and to maintain good public relations with the taxpayers of this City.

## Spring Fever

Are you one of the victims of spring fever every year? Do you get listless, lazy and feel all run down?

If you are a spring fever victim you don't need to be, the U. S. Department of Agriculture advices, and if you want to avoid it this year you had better take special care of your diet during the next few weeks.

For the Department of Agriculture has found that the "spring weariness" so common in grandmother's day that she dosed her family with spring tonic, is probably due to a shortage of vitamin C in the food you ordinarily eat at this time of year.

Food like potatoes, cabbage, apples, canned tomatoes and other vegetables and fruits gradually lose their vitamin C as they stand in storage. For example, potatoes held in storage six months have only one-third as much vitamin C as they had when they were harvested.

Studies made of the blood plasma of school children has shown that it is low in ascorbic acid (vitamin C) at this time of year, and the same thing is probably true of most adults as well.

So, instead of waiting until spring fever really hits, a few weeks from now, and then dosing yourself with spring tonics and other remedies, the Department of Agriculture recommends you concentrate now on eating more foods rich in vitamin C—citrus fruit or canned citrus products, more canned tomato juice, more cabbage, and more vegetables and fruits generally, if your budget allows it.

IT'S OIL IN FUN

Stout lady (at a filling station): "I want some oil."

Attendant: "What kind, heavy?"

Stout lady: "You impertinent pup!"

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## E.C.A. Chief Lauds Labor's Great Aid To Marshall Plan

A glowing, new tribute to the "momentous aid" given by American labor was voiced this week by Paul G. Hoffman, chief of the Economic Cooperation Administration, which directs the Marshall plan for European recovery.

As the recovery program reached its second anniversary and half-way mark, Hoffman declared that "the encouragement, enthusiasm and down-to-earth participation of American trade unionists" has been in large part responsible for the progress made so far."

"Organized railway workers in this country are with you for the duration," wrote A. E. Lyon, executive secretary of the Railway Labor Executives Association. "We send you our assurances of continuing endeavor in behalf of free workers throughout the world."

President William Green of the A. F. of L. and President Philip Murray of the C. I. O. sent similar pledges of continued support.

**Imports Small**

Meantime Hoffman also sought to allay fears that the E. C. A.'s efforts to increase imports from abroad to this country—so as to cut Europe's dependence on American financial aid—will bring heavy unemployment in America.

"We give our assurances that the welfare of U.S. workers generally will be guarded," he said.

Hoffman declared that the proposed increased imports would amount to only "one third of 1 percent of our total output of goods" and that this will not cause serious repercussions.

"If we do not import, we cannot export," he said. "And if we do not sell less and buy more, we must either continue our aid, or see the European economy placed in grave danger."

Two former trade union leaders now serving as Hoffman's top labor advisers—Bert M. Jewell and Clinton S. Golden—also made a plea for the program. Jewell was for many years president of the A. F. of L. Railway Employees' Department and Golden was assistant president of the Steelworkers' union.

## Outstanding Labor Leader Passes on

Hamilton.—An outstanding leader in organized labor, Fred Molineux, who for many years was international representative of the International Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, and Paperhangers of America and retired from the post in 1945, died here this week.

In the long and very active career he filled many posts. He was representative of The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada on the National Labor Supply Council, the National Research Council, the Industrial Labor Relations Board and the National Board of Construction Industry during the recent war. As labor's representative, he also participated in the work of the Ontario Royal Commission on Education.

Molineux, was the T. L. C.'s fraternal delegate to the British Trades Union Congress in 1936 and was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1946 for his work during the war. He was a member of the advisory board of Ontario Provincial Institute of Textiles and was active in the development of the Ontario Apprenticeship Law.

## Clerks Gain Wage Increase at Port

Ottawa.—Wage hikes are recommended in a unanimous report by a Federal conciliation board in a dispute between the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks and the National Harbors Board at Quebec City. The men involved comprise the elevator system and general maintenance forces of the port.

The Board recommended that employees in the grain elevator system be granted a 5-cents-an-hour increase, retroactive to May 1, 1948, and a further 5-cent increase retroactive to May 1, 1949.

The Board also recommended that employees in the general maintenance forces be granted a 5-cent-per-hour boost, as of June 1, 1949.

The union's demands were for wage hikes of 10 cents per hour, retroactive to April 1, 1948, for employees in the grain elevator system, and 5 cents per hour, retroactive to November 1, 1948, for employees in the general maintenance forces.

The report was released here by Federal Labor Minister Humphrey Mitchell. Chairman of the Board was Judge Edouard Tellier of Montreal. Marcel E. Francq of Montreal represented the workers on the Board and Paul LeBel of Quebec represented the employers.

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When driving always remember your ABCs — Always Be Careful! And it might be well to remind you that "Safety Begins Behind the Ears."

---

Don't be a lazy citizens. Be a registered voter!

"Not here! They're anti-labor!"

## Organ of Business Talks Social Security

The magazine "Business Week," foremost organ of industry, came out editorially this week for the Administration's legislation to liberalize the Social Security Act and expand its coverage.

Reactionaries in Congress have been either opposing the legislation or trying to whittle it down, but "Business Week' declared that "the need is obvious" and it called for action at this session.

For a long time organized labor has been fighting for higher pensions and other improvements in social security, and now that it's on the verge of success, "Business Week" gets on the bandwagon and admits labor was right all along. It even echoes some of labor's arguments.

**Present Law "Inadequate"**

"Why is there so much steam behind the drive to expand the Social Security program?" the magazine asks, and then gives its answer: "The chief reason is that time has made the present Social Security pension plan, originally passed in 1935, obviously inadequate."

Even in 1935 the pensions were much too low "and the cost of living has risen almost 70 percent since then," declares "Business Week." It cites the fact that average annuities under the act are far less than the "charity" pensions paid by states to needy aged.

"The pension plan simply isn't doing the job it was designed to do," the magazine adds. "That was to provide an insurance plan that would make people who are to old to work independent of charity."

**Real Reason for Stand**

Of course, the magazine concedes a selfish reason for its stand—namely, that unions have been driving for supplementary company plans which would give workers combined Federal and private pensions of $100 a month. Under these plans, company contributions go down as Federal pensions go up.

"That gives the companies with private plans an obvious interest in raising the level of Social Security benefits," the magazine says.

Furthermore, private plans have too many "bugs" and can't be the firstline reliance against the h azards of old age for old workers." Only a public plan can do that, because among other advantages. "it can be made to cover all workers in the country, including the self-employed."

**"Must Cover all Workers"**

The magazine declares the bill passed by the H ouse last year; and now before the Senate, is a "step in the right direction"—and that Congress should take the final action this year. Organized labor has also hailed the House bill—which would increase present meager benefits by about 70 percent and expand coverage—but favors additional improvements.

Winding up its plea, "Business Week" contends that "in the long run, if the plan is to be fair and democratic, it must cover all workers, and provide pensions large enough so that their living standards will not drop drastically when they retire."

## Union Secretaries-- Attention!

Muryl Joslyn, formerly employed by the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades & Labor Council has opened a Public Stenography Office in Room 119, Labor Temple, FA. 8936.

The following types of work will be handled through this office:

Agreements, Verbatim Reports of Conventions, Briefs, Board Meetings, Typing, Mimeographing and General Correspondence.

Muryl is a graduate in Stenotypy from Shaws' Business College in Toronto, and prior to working for the Council had several years of varied experience in stenographic and secretarial work.

---

A Chinese had a toothache and phoned his dentist for an appointment.

"Two-thirty all right?" asked the dentist.

"Yes," replied the Chinese, tooth hurtee, all right, but what time I come?"

---

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# News of the Month

## UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

By GEO. R. BENGOUGH

### CHILLIWACK

Fraser Valley carpenters continue to show the way for the other trades in organization. Practically all the jobs in the valley are manned by members of the United Brotherhood. Chilliwack Local No. 1843 reports work is picking up considerably the last few weeks. The Army camp near Sardis is still the major job in the Chilliwack district, with the main part of the work under Central Housing and Mortgage.

The Harrison Hotel job has provided considerable employment for all the building trades; at one time there were over 100 carpenters on the job. Mission City Local No. 2213 provided the majority of the men, some men were employed from Vancouver, New Westminster and Chilliwack as well.

Brother Herb Kirkham was the head shop steward at Harrison Lake Hotel job and he certainly did good work in keeping the carpenter crew 100 per cent organized at all times. Brother Kirkham left last week to take over a foreman's job with another company, and we wish him good luck with his new work.

The Carpenters throughout the Fraser Valley have had to organize in order to maintain their wages and conditions. Today there is hardly a job from New Westminster to Hope that what the Carpenters are wanting the Station of their union.

From time to time in the meetings of Local No. 1251, New Westminster, No. 2213, Mission City, and No. 1843 Chilliwack, the members express themselves along the line that it is time some of the other trades got busy and organized. The Carpenters of the Fraser Valley are in a position to help when called upon.

### VANCOUVER MILLWORKERS, No. [illegible]

Three more agreements have been completed, each agreement contains the Union Shop Clause, Rest Periods, Four Paid Statutory Holidays and an additional holiday week after five years service. Also the classifications and wages that make the Millworkers No. [illegible] the best in the field.

The three signing firms this month are Abbotsford Plywoods Ltd., B.C. Millwork Products Ltd., Quality Woodworks Ltd.

Local No. [illegible] officially installed their Charter last Thursday, April [illegible]. General Representative Wm. Page stayed over in Vancouver for the occasion and attended to the formalities.

It was one of the most pleasant evenings in a long time. President W. "Wally" Smith initiated twelve new members for a start. Later he called on W. Page to do the honors of installation of the Charter and the following guests spoke on the remarkable progress the new local had made, and wished the members and officers of No. [illegible] Millworkers continued success. These guests were: Secretary W. Watts of the Building Trades Council; President Stan Johnston, Local No. 2213, New Westminster; President [illegible], Local No. 2213, Vancouver, and President [illegible], Local No. 452, Vancouver.

Brother Lorne Knudsen was thanked for the fine music on the picture frame that he had made for the Charter by President Smith.

Vice-President John W. Thorsen had a special treat of selected flowers, etc., for the members, and these and the other refreshments provided by the ladies after the meeting which was enjoyed by everyone present.

### VANCOUVER SHINGLERS AND ROOFERS, No. [illegible]

The Shinglers and Roofers Local No. [illegible] have had an uphill climb this last few months. Many of the members were unable to work during all the bad weather and even the last few weeks work has been spotty owing to the weather.

There is many a time the Carpenters could help the Shinglers by merely enquiring as to whether the man on the roof is a member of the Shinglers' Union and if he is not, telephone the Building Trades Office, FAirmont 4343, or leave word at FAirmont 9712, and the information will be passed on to the Shinglers' Union.

To all Brotherhood members, we would remind you that the Shinglers and Roofers are members of the Brotherhood too. The nature of their work is such that there is never a large number of men working at the trade and therefore they cannot afford a business agent of their own. So to all men on the job, question the shingler or roofer and make sure he is in the Union.

Secretary Gus Gildemeester has the names of all the Union Shinglers and if your contractor needs a man for the roof ask him to telephone CEdar 2975 and get a Union Shingler.

## Building Trades In Calgary Progressing

The last meeting of the Calgary Building and Construction Trades Council was a wowser. Twenty-two delegates from the carpenters, painters, plumbers, electrical workers, plasterers, laborers and sheet metal workers attended, and reports of progress were given by all. The new tile and terazzo, the bricklayers and the elevator construction mechanics are expected out at the next meeting. There is no doubt that the concentration of organizing activity brings forth results. The rise in membership of all building trades groups is proving the case in Calgary.

Very glad to see Jack Laurence, International representative, Sheet Metal Workers' International, in town during the last week. Jack has demonstrated in Calgary before and still does demonstrate that he is a capable organizer. The results he gets speak for themselves.—Gordon Wilkinson in the (Calgary) Call.

## $5 a Week Boost

Washington. — A $5-a-week pay boost for 1,400 Safeway and Acme store clerks in the Washington area was negotiated by AFL Retail Clerks Local 639-A.

The new scales to run until Dec. 2, 1951, with a wage reopening on Dec. 2, 1951, will range from $50.50 to $64.50 a week. Part-time employees get a 12-cent-an-hour boost.

Raises from $5 to $7.50 per week for retail bakery clerks employed by the Giant food stores in the Washington area were negotiated by AFL Retail Clerks Local 1501.

### 50 YEARS' SERVICE

Montreal.—Members of Local 134, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, have presented a gold membership button to Brother Edmond Berthiaume who was the Local's first business agent, [illegible] the Local in [illegible] and was its president for a considerable number of years. At the age of 79 he is still in good spirits although his legs are too weak to support him. Brother Arthur Martel of the General Executive and Brother Ed. LaRose, General Representative of the International, headed the delegation making the presentation.

### NORTH YORK STAFF GAINS T.L.C. CHARTER

Ottawa.—A new Federal Charter, No. 372, has been granted to North York Township Staff Association. This group of civic employees had an Association but no affiliation. The efforts of the officers, and, in particular, the President, of the Ontario Federation of Municipal Employees, are responsible for this latest addition to the continually expanding community of Civic and Municipal Employees Federal unions chartered by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

## Are Military 'Press Agents' Dangerous?

In Washington and elsewhere, the military agencies maintain huge and expensive staffs of "press agents." Is this a dangerous development? Judge by one example:

This week, just when Congress was considering how much money to appropriate for the Navy, scare stories about "Russian submarines off our Pacific coast" were handed out by the Navy.

The New York "Post" points out that similar "Russian submarine" stories have been spread by the Navy every time it asked Congress for more money in recent years. To prove that, the "Post" reprints the headlines it put over such stories year after year in the past.

How far can this sort of thing go, without danger of "stampeding" Congress and the country into unnecessary expenditures?—Labor.

## Good News From India

India and Pakistan—the two independent nations into which the "sleeping giant" of India was split when freed from Britain, sign a new agreement to let both Hindus and Moslems live in peace within their borders. Adherents of the two religions have been mortal enemies, as a result of their conqueror's former policy of "divide and rule."

If the new agreement works out as planned, India, Pakistan and their 300 million people will play a tremendous part in the world's future and will prove that even the most bitter racial and religious differences can be solved by men of intelligence and good will.—Labor.

## Self Study

"Have you, students, have studied many things at the University. Have you ever studied yourself?"—L. Adams Beck.

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