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TO EACH UNION MEMBER THE POLITICAL PARTY OF HIS CHOICE

LABOR STATESMAN

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

BUILD STRONG UNIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

No. 508. VANCOUVER, CANADA, AUGUST, 1949 Established 1924

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Labor Day Edition, 1949

WHAT THEY SAID . . .

"Lasting Prosperity"

No business, big or small, can achieve lasting prosperity in an economy in which a large part of the population is depressed and exploited . . .

"Attempts to undermine the unity and bargaining strength of labor are a disservice to the legitimate interests of management . . .

—William Green, in the "American Federationist".

This Is a Scab

"A scab is to his trade what a traitor is to his country. Though both may be 'useful' in troublesome times, they are detested by all when peace returns.

"When help is needed the scab is the last to contribute assistance and the first to grasp the benefit he never labored to secure. He cares only for himself; he sees not beyond the extent of a day, and for a monetary appropriation he would betray his friends, family and country.

"In short, he is a traitor on a small scale who first sells his journeymen and is afterward sold in turn by his employer, until at last he is despised by both and deserted by all. He is an enemy to himself, to present times and to all posterity."—Prosecuting attorney's definition in English, Conspiracy Trial.

Going Forth To Do Battle

"Communists must be met by united opposition. Communism is a movement that makes a religion out of iron discipline amongst its members. Communists are always united. They know exactly what the orders are and are told exactly what means to use to obtain a given end. The totalitarian state leaves nothing for the individual to decide . . .

"A determined, united opposition can defeat the communists. It has been done in the past and will continue to be done. And no weapon is more effective against the communist doctrines than a free and progressive trade union movement."

—William Green, "American Federationist".

A "Strong" Opinion

St. Laurent has a commanding position. He has more support than any other prime minister in the history of Canada. For nearly twenty years the Liberals have enjoyed uninterrupted power. No one can accuse Canada of having unstable government. Why our government is so stable that it's beginning to smell that way!

—"Halifax Citizen"

Even Taft Admits It

Robert Taft, Repblican Senator and an obstinate opponent of public enterprise:

"While I am a great believer in free enterprise, housing happens to be a field where it has failed. . . . There is no alternative to public housing to provide homes for those with low incomes. . . . . Under private enterprise the slum condition has continued without improvement. . . . Those opposed to public housing have done their own industry a disservice by their indiscriminate and unreasoning opposition."

Politics

The art of obtaining money from the rich, votes from the poor on the pretext of protecting each from the other.

"The Good Old British Way"

"Peaceful picketing is no more capable of real existence than would be peaceful war on unoppressive nations. Lockouts and strikes are both forms of warfare and neither are compatible with the good old British way of taking disputes to the courts."—(Mr. Justice A. M. Manson, of Vancouver, as reported in the Toronto Globe and Mail of 3rd June, 1949.)

Freedom and Justice

The labor movement of America is founded on justice and if we stick together, work together as one solid unit, determined to fight for what is right, those who come after us will enjoy the blessings of freedom and justice. — Daniel J. Tobin, President, Teamsters Union.

Cradle Song

Fear not the atom is fission;
The cradle will outwit the hearse;
Man on this earth has a mission—
To survive and go on getting worse.

—Samuel Hoffenstein.

An Old Paradox Clarified

The so-called weaker sex is usually the stronger sex because of the weakness of the stronger sex for those of the weaker sex.

—Union Gazette.

Trades Congress Executive Lashes Seamen's Union

In an editorial appearing in the current issue of the "Journal" of the T.L.C., President Percy R. Bengough strongly advises the members of all affiliated unions and organizations not to contribute funds to the Canadian Seamen's Union. At the moment the C. S. U. is making appeals for money in support of its activities throughout the world.

Lashing at the C.S.U., the T.L.C. editorial declares:

"The report of the Executive Council of Trades and Labor Congress of Canada dealing with thte suspension of the Canadian Seamen's Union sent out to all affiliated organizations and local unions contained the following paragraph:

" 'After rendering all possible assistance to the Canadian Seamen's Union both prior to and since the beginning of the East Coast shipping strike, the executive council of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, following full and careful consideration of all the issues involved, are unanimously of the opinion that the continuation of the present strike can only result in the placing of this Congress and its affiliated unions in further embarrassing and untenable positions unquestionably not in the best interests of this or any other bona fide trade union movement. The executive council has decided that the name of the Congress shall no longer be associated with that of the Canadian Seamen's Union while the union has its present leadership.'

"Subsequent and current events particularly in Australia and Great Britain where, in both instances, Labor governments with many trade union members as ministers have become a special target for attack, have more than justified these expressed opinions of the executive council and the position taken in dissociating the name of the Congress from the campaign of spreading the misery aimed to advance a cause far removed and diametrically opposed to the cause of organized labor.

"The unauthorized strikes in the London docks carried on long enough would be more liable to starve the workers than the ship owners. In Britain the difficulty of getting sufficient food has been increased for many thousand not too well fed under prevailing conditions. No one can believe that by spreading all this misery among thousands of people in the British Isles the Canadian Seamen's Union is in any stronger position in getting re-established on Canadian ships. The same applies to some degree in Australia, now in the midst of a severe winter, where the preventing of unloading coal has tended more to embitter than to be helpful.

"The Executive of this Congress did everything possible in supporting the membership of the Canadian Seamen's Union in the right to organize and bargain through their chosen representatives. However, when the very freedom valued and enjoyed in a democratic institution become skilfully used to advance the cause of Communism, some protective measures must be taken.

"It cannot be contradicted that those in charge of the C.S.U. strike did not accept the unanimous findings of a properly constituted board, on which they had their representative. In not doing so they weakened their position materially.

"The World Federation of Trade Unions, comprised of organizations entirely controlled and operated by Commuist governments, has now taken over the direction of the strike. It is a world-wide campaign to advance the cause of Communism by decreasing, as much as possible, the effectiveness of the Marshall Plan.

"In the meantime the Canadian Seamen's Union is collecting funds to 'aid the dock workers' of Great Britain, funds are beig solicited in Britain to help the Canadian Seamen and government-controlled unions inside the iron curtain, such as the Polish Transport Union, have campaigns under way requesting resolutions and funds for 'the aid fund to Canadian sailors on strike.'

"These appeals for financial assistance vary on the basis of what is the strongest appeal in the particular country in which it is being made. Under the circumstances and conscientiously believing that the funds so collected would not be used to advance the cause of the trade union movement all our affiliated unions are strongly advised not to contribute."

Plumbers Reject Board Award; Union Authorizes Strike Vote

At a well attended meeting, with over eight hundred members present, Local 170, Plumbers & Pipefitters rejested the majority award of a board of which A. J. Cowan was chairman, J. P. MacKenzie represented the employers, and Jack Ross, Electrical Workers, represented the union.

The union demands were for $1.75 per hour for Journeymen and $1.25 per hour for helpers; pay for all statutory holidays; holidays with pay based on 4% of the employees' earning, and employers to supply all tools.

In the award, the chairman and union representative recommended 4% of earnings or two weeks' holidays with pay after one year's service. The chairman and employer's representative rejected all other demands. The union rejected the award and authorized the taking of a strike vote.

The union's case, prepared by Bro. John W. Bruce, general representative, in part contained the following arguments:

"A wage rate of $1.75 cannot be considered as an unjustifiable wage or out of relation to the respective wage rates paid other mechanics in the industry, and in our judgment would not inflict any hardship or retard the progress of the construction. In such cities as Toronto and Windsor Plumbers and Steamfitters now receive this rate of wages. In the United States in cities of comparative size and importance they receive wage rates from $2.50 to $2.75 per hour and despite what may be said respecting our wage economy there is no justification for this extreme differential nor has it retarded building operations. In Canada we have a building programme in 1949 in excess of 1948, and evidently our needs are sufficient to maintain a degree of building activity that will not be retarded because of fractional increases in wages. Our mechanics and helpers are as competent as any workers in the country and under these circumstances an increase of wages to a basic wage of $1.75 per hour for Journeymen and $1.25 for helpers will not unnecessarily cripple the industry.

$1.00 Worth Only 65c

"Our opposition to the use of the cost of living statistics is due to the fact that they do not truly or equitably represent our real cost of living, when reputable persons like Graham Towers, Governor of the Bank of Canada, makes a statement before the House of Commons Committee that our dollar is worth 65c as compared with the dollar of 1939. We believe it is less. The justification of our request for $1.75 per hour is easily sustained . . .

Human Needs Cannot Be Measured by Figures

"One regrettable feature in the Dominion of Canada is that no constructive efforts have been adopted by the Government to adopt a standard of living and probably with all of the efforts now being made we might arrive at some more equitable basis than slide-rule methods to measure our social needs and commodity values.. While figures can be made impressive, human needs cannot be measured by figures, and so we base our requests on what we believe is required in our income to buy the necessary commodities we need to mainain us in decency and comfort, and in our own deliberations we determined that we required at least $1.75 per hour.

"Over the years our aggregate earnings do not nearly reach the amount that reputable social agencies who have been struggling with this problem have forecast as a standard of living for the average Canadian citizen.

"When discussing the cost of living figures one must realize that all it takes into account are the bare necesities of life in minimum amounts and at maximum costs. All other factors are ignored, and so the needs of the family and all of its dependents such as sickness, medical attention, unemployment, and the need of rest and recreation, are not taken into consideration and these are the factors we are concerned about that enter into the family budget and make our living costs high.

"Our big problem is an attempt to determine an accurate method of measuring the amount of wage increases that are due. In the past there have been no accurate or useful methods shown. Those used were based entirely on increases in the cost of living. However, there are certain precautions which must be taken in using this method. We are opposed to the principle being established that wages should be geared entirely to the cost of living. This would have the effect of freezing the standard of living for the workers, a principle entirely unacceptable to the labor movement.

A Minimum or Adequate Standard?

"The question is, do we want to live on a minimum standard or on an

(Continued on Page 4).

The History of Labor Day

Labor Day rightly belongs to the American workers who toil diligently day after day to contribute their share to the greatness of this nation.

Long before Labor Day became a legal public holiday it was celebrated by workers as a day of festive activity and rest from their daily tasks. It was the creation of laborers, not of politicians. It was the brainchild of a union carpenter 12 years before Labor Day was proclaimed a national holiday by act of Congress.

Peter J. McGuire, a native of New York City who joined the ranks of America's toilers while still a child, was the father of the observance in honor of the country's working people

In May of 1882, he stood before the newly organized Central Labor Union of New York City and proposed that one day of the year be set aside as a general holiday for the working masses.

McGuire suggested that the holiday be known as Labor Day and that it be set for the first Monday in September, which would put it midway between two national holidays — the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving.

Other delegates to the meeting enthusiastically embraced the idea. A committee was named and soon preparations were under way for the initial celebration of Labor Day.

Approximately two years after this first Labor Day, the 26 delegates to the fourth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor held in Chicago adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the first Monday in September of each year be set apart as a laborers' national holiday, and that we recommend its observance by all wage workers, irrespective of sex, calling or nationality."

During the next few years organized labor devoted its attention to securing state legislation making Labor Day a legal holiday. As early as 1887, Oregon enacted the first state law, but this measure designated the first Saturday in June as Labor Day. This was changed to the first Monday in September in 1893. Ultimately, 23 states proclaimed Labor Day a legal holiday.

The Labor Committee of the House of Representatives, in May of 1894, presented a favorable report on a bill making Labor Day a legal public holiday.

By June 26 of that year Congressional action on the bill had been completed and two days later the measure was signed by President Grover Cleveland. The pen used by the President was turned over to Representative Amos J. Cummings of New York City, who sponsored the bill in the House. Cummings then sent the pen on to President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor.

Thus, a dozen years after McGuire first advanced the idea of a special holiday honoring labor before the Central Labor Union of New York City, the proposal had the approval of the American people, expressed through their elected representatives at Washington.

Over the years since 1882 much has been said concerning the significance of Labor Day. One of the best statements was made by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an editorial written 46 years ago for the American Federationist. While the reference to the 19th Century is remote, Gompers' remarks are timeless in point. He wrote:

"No day in the calendar is a greater fixture, one which is more truly regarded as a real holiday, or one which is so surely destined to endure for all time, than the first Monday in September of each recurring year, Labor Day.

"Labor Day differs in every essential from the other holidays of the year of any country. All other holidays are, in a more or less degree, connected with conflicts and battles, of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed or power, of glories achieved by one nation over another.

"Labor Day, on the other hand, marks a new epoch in the annals of human history. It is at once a manifestation of reverence for the struggles of the masses against tyranny and injustice from time immemorial; an impetus to battle for the right in our day for the men, women and children of our time and gives hope and encouragement for the attainment of the aspirations for the future of the human family.

"It is devoted to no man, living or dead; to no sect, sex, race or nation. It is founded upon the highest principles of humanity, is as broad in its scope as the universe.

"It was not given to but conquered by labor, and established as a holiday before any legislature, state or national, enacted it into law.

"The marching toilers in the Labor Day demonstrations signalize no martial glory, brutal domination, conquests or warlike pomp. They are, in their essence, the manifestations of the growing intelligence of the workers who recognize that peace is as essential to successful industry and real progress as air is to lung-breathing animals; that justice to the toilers has too long been denied; that in the midst of the civilization at the close of the 19th Century, wrongs too gross, widespread and well known to require mention here, still abound; that if man is to be free in the time to come, eternal vigilance must be exercised, organization of the workers proclaimed, maintained and extended; education of the educated at well as of the masses be furthered and nurtured, and agitation of labor's wrongs endured and rights denied undertaken, with all the zest and energy begotten by devotion to a cause which is at once holy, noble, pure, lofty, just, wise and humane."

Newspaper accounts have preserved for us the color attendant upon the celebration of the first Labor Day in New York City when American labor, led by Peter J. McGuire, paraded in orderly fashion through the streets of the city.

Of the picnic in Elm Park following the parade, one newspaper said:

"It had been arranged that each union would have a certain portion of the grounds marked out for itself, and this facilitated a greater fraternizing than otherwise could have been observed.

"As it was, fellow-workers and their families sat together, joked together and caroused together . . . Americans and English, Irish and Germans, they all hobnobbed and seemed on a friendly footing, as though the common cause had established a sense of closer brotherhood."

From mid-afternoon to nightfall there was speechmaking. One of the best-received speakers, of course, was McGuire himself.

With evening came a still larger crowd, for only a fraction of the city's employers had decreed a holiday, and the Central Labor Union had advised all whose employers desired them to work to do so. Fireworks and dancing both had important parts in the after dark portion of the festival.

Trade Union Philosophy

"An old man going a lone highway
Came at the evening, cold and gray
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
The old man crossed at twilight dim—
The sullen stream had no fear for him.
But he turned when safe on the other side.
Tnd built a bridge to stem the tide.
'Old Man,' said a fellow pilgrim near,
'You are wasting your time with building here,
Your journey will end with the closing day,
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide;
You never again will pass this way—
Why build you this bridge at evening tide?'
The builder lifted his old grey head,
'Good friend, in the way I have come, he said,
'There followeth after me today
A youth, whose feet must pass this way;
This stream that has been as naught to me,
To the fair-haired youth might a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him.' "

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But Most Liberals Are 'Stay-at-Homes'

Here is part of a letter received from a former resident of Canada who now lives in London, England:

"Personally, when I was in Canada I voted Liberal, but after I got back here under the Labor government I realize how little was done for the people in Canada. I shall never vote anything but Labor again. I'm sure you'd like our government. Bob says the same thing. The social security is really something here now, and means such a lot if you're sick or out of work. It was funny when the new health scheme started, none of the doctors (all Conservatives) wanted to be in it. They objected to being 'nationalized'. But now it's a different story. They realize they're better off than they ever were, and they're forever praising it now."

Don't Want Our Oil?

"Ottawa—How rapidly will protectionist sentiment spread in the United States? What will it mean to expansion of future exports from Canada in a vital commodity like Alberta oil?

"Those are the important questions in our trade with U.S. currently being pondered here.

"They're thrown into sharp focus by congresional action in Washington last week aimed at restoring the two cent pound tariff on copper.

"This is looked upon here as a disturbing foretaste of the rising protectionist sentiment in the U.S. to protect this and other industries where employment and profits are threatened. . . .

"Last year, imports of crude oil and products into U.S. averaged 513,000 barrels daily. The peak was reached in December, 1948, of 645,000 barrels a day. Although imports have been reduced about 20 per cent from that peak level they are still going into U.S. at a rate which, it is contended, threatens the stability of the crude oil market. . . .

"What may be ahead by the time Canadian oil starts to flow freely toward the head of the Lakes is one of the most important questions facing not only the Canadian west but the whole Canadian economy from the overall dollar-shortage viewpoint.

"This country may be forced to adopt the more costly and less preferable alternative of using Alberta oil entirely within Canadian borders."

—Kenneth R Wilson in the "Financial Post," June 18.

Can't Fool People All The Time

"The complex health insurance situation was muddled rather than clarified by recent election promises and accusations, but three salient facts stand out.

"One is that, if it had wanted to, Ottawa could have financed its share of a national health insurance scheme at any time in the last two years.

"Another is that public opinion in favor of health insurance is growing steadily. . . .

"Why . . . hasn't Ottawa gone ahead with health insurance?

"The main reason given is that there is no guarantee that Ontario and Quebec will not invade the personal income tax field, and will not boost provincial corporation and death tax rates—all to the detriment of the federal treasury.

"Many people think Ottawa should have enacted health insurance for the seven provinces which signed tax agreements a couple of years ago. But the government shied away. It realized that discrimination against Ontario and Quebec, and particularly while using taxes collected in those provinces to provide benefits for the other seven, would boomerang politically.

"And then, too, some people vehemently don't want it. A good many doctors, including some leaders of the medical profession, are frightened by the bogey of state medicine, British style.

"Nevertheless, it's clear that health insurance is on the way. It's only a matter of time—until public opinion is more emphatic and until the politicians have won all the elections they can on the mere promise, and have to produce the goods."

—Gerald Waring and Robt. McKeown in Montreal Standard, July 16.

"I don't wonder at some poor wives having to help themselves out of their husband's pockets," said Mrs. Jones to Mrs. Green, as the two ladies were holding a confab on the troubles of husbands.

"I can't say I like them underhand ways myself," replied Mrs. Green. "I just turn my man's breeches upside down and help myself off the carpet."

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VANCOUVER, NEW WESTMINSTER AND DISTRICT TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Trades and Labor Congress of Canada

The recognized head of the organized labor movement of the Dominion is the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, a body which is especially representative of international trade unionism, the greater part of its affiliated membership being derived from international organizations operating on the North American Continent. The Trades and Labor Congress dates its origin from the year 1873, when a convention of trade union representatives was held in Toronto. The Canadian Labor Union, as it was then called, met in Ottawa in 1874, and through the courtesy of the then premier, the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, the sessions were held in what was known as Room 16 of the House of Commons. At this meeting the name was changed to the Canadian Congress. In 1875 the congress met in the city of St. Catherines. Although Toronto was chosen as the meeting place for 1876, there was no session held that year, not until seven years afterwards, when a convention was held in Toronto on December 26, 1883, with 47 delegates present, 33 of whom represented trade unions, 12 represented the Knigts of Labor assemblies and two represented the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, under whose auspices the conference was called. The next meeting, which was attended by 109 delegates, was also held in Toronto, the opening session taking place on September 14, 1886, and from which time the congress has met regularly each year, the last convention being recorded as the forty-fourth. The present title of the organization was decided upon at the convention held in London in 1895. In 1902 the Trades Congress amended its constitution so as to exclude from the affiliation Knights of Labor assemblies as well as national unions where internationals of the same craft existed. From the time of this amendment being made to the constitution the membership of the congress has been drawn mainly from international organizations. In 1920 the executive council of the congress purchased a property in Ottawa, which is now its headquarters, and which is valued at $35,000.

Gist and Jest

ALL GUILTY

When Mayor LaGuardia first took office in New York City, his hobby was presiding in police court. One day, in a winter of widespread destitution, he faced a jobless man arrested for stealing bread. The prisoner's sole defence was that his family was hungry.

"I've got to punish you," said LaGuardia, "since the law makes no exceptions. Therefore I sentence you to a fine of $10.00."

Fiorello then reached into his pocket and added: "Here is the money for your fine. And I remit sentence. But . . ." LaGuardia took his familiar sombrero and tossed a $10 bill into it, ". . . but I'm going to fine every person in this room 50 cents for living in a community where a man has to steal bread to eat!"

The bailiff took the hat, passed it through the courtroom and dumped the heap of jingling coins into the hands of a surprised but grateful defendant.—Tales of Hoffman.

"THE WHOLE TRUTH . . ."

Woman protesting to Fulham Rent Tribunal recently that her landlord had not told the truth: "The Tribunal ought to have evidence on the Bible."

The chairman: "I often think it makes them lie all the more."—The Evening Standard.

Wished to Share His Delight

One night at a theatre a man who had dined rather too well stood up in his seat and cried: "Is there a doctor in the house?"

The actors faltered slightly, but the play went bravely on.

A moment later, the same man, still standing, repeated his question.

At this second call another man rose and said: "Yes, I'm a doctor," whereupon the other nearly finished off the performance by asking in a tone of great good nature: "How do you like the show, Doc?"

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Brother John W. Bruce, General Representative of the Plumbers and Steamfitters, has been an active trade unionist for 55 years. He joined the trade union movement in Australia in 1893, and has been an international officer for 40 years, a record in Canada. Bro. Bruce was in South Africa during the Boer War and later came to Canada where he has been an actice officer and member of the trade union movement ever since.

Bro. Bruce appeared before a recent arbitration board representing Local 170 of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union. The plumbers have attempted to secure wage increases to $1.75 per hour and statutory holidays with pay.

"We are bitterly opposed to the cost of living being made the yardstick," declares Bro. Bruce. "This would free the standard of living of workers, a principle we cannot accept. We want an adequate, not a minimum, standard."

Bro. Bruce points out that considerable progress has been made in securing two weeks' holiday with pay. There are now five cities in the Dominion of Canada who are paying either 4% of earnings or two weeks' holiday with pay.

Recently he negotiated a very good agreement for his union in the oil fields controlling a considerable measure of oil distributing piping and at the present time there are three refineries being built in which his union controls all of the work.

FRANK CARLISLE

Business Agent, Plumbing and Pipe-Fitting Union, Local No. 170; Vice-President, Building Trades Council.

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How Labor Negotiations Work in Great Britain

By T. E. M. McKITTERICK

Less than three hours for each wage-earner in Britain have been lost by strikes and stoppages during the whole of the last three years. If in such a period after a great war each worker loses less than an hour a year through disputes, the machinery of industrial negotiation must be well devised and in good working order. Now and again an industrial dispute catches the attention of the Press and public. Ordinary negotiation between employers and employed has failed and something that may not have been of much importance originally leads perhaps to a strike. Such breakdowns however own much of their news value to their rarity. For every set of negotiations that fails ther are thousands of others going on all the time, succeeding in producing agreement, and of which the public never hears.

These successful negotiations may cover almost anything from the cleaning of a yash-house to a new wage structure for a whole industry. They may involve half a dozen men in a single shop, or several hundred thousand on a Nation-wide scale. But because they are the commonplaces of industrial life, they often pass almost unnoticed.

The machinery of these negotiations is as diverse as Britain's industry itself. Most of it has been set up by agreement and only in a few cases (chiefly those where workers' organization was especially difficult) has the State stepped in to provide negotiating machinery by law.

The simplest form of negotiation is at the place of work, where perhaps only a few workers are concerned. In most trade unions these negotiations are carried out by and elected official called a shop-steward. On a small question the shop-steward approaches the foreman, manager or employer direct and settles the issue with him. If it is more difficult, or if it involves a principle of importance to other workers elsewhere, he will refer it to his union branch, to the local shop-stewards' committee, or perhaps to the nearest full time official of the union. The question may then be discussed at a higher level—with the factory manager, for example. In the vast majority of cases this local procedure works, and nothing more is heard of the discussion.

Moral Binding Force

Only local questions can, of course, be settled in this way. For many years the trade union movement has been striving to secure that the vital issues of wages, hours and minimum working conditions should be treated on a National or at least a regional scale. In most industries this is now the case. Generally agreements provide a machinery and procedure for these important negotiations. About 70% of all wage earners in Britain are covered by voluntary machinery of one sort or another.

The machinery and procedure in use varies widely. Broadly speaking, discussion takes place between representatives of the National executive committee of the trade union concerned and representatives of the employers' organizations. Where more than one union is affected, a joint policy is agreed on, and each may send its own representative, or may consent to being represented by one of the other unions. Agreements arrived at by this means have no legal endorsement. Their only binding force is moral, though of course each side will watch closely to see that the other observes them, and it is seldom that an agreement is afterwards broken by either side.

If agreement cannot be reached, the present procedure is usually to submit the question either to an arbitrator whose award is binding or to a special committee of inquiry appointed by the Minister of Labor with powers of reconsideration only. During the war submission to arbitration was made complsory in some cases, and this war-time provision is still in force.

There are a few cases in which negotiations over wages and hours are carried out by bodies established by law, and with the power to make compulsory awards. Among these are the catering industry and agriculture; until the nationalization of the industry road transport was also covered. These statutory bodies (known as "Wages Councils" or "Wages Boards") consist of representatives of each side of the industry with an independent chairman and sometimes other independent members. Their decisions are enforced by order of the Ministry of Labor, or sometimes even by a special Act of Parliament.

Unions' Independence

Some industries, covering in 1947 a total of 4½ million workers, have Joint Industrial Councils—popularly known as Whitley Councils from the name of the chairman of the committee which recommended their establishment in 1917. Whitley Councils are both National and local, and may deal with anything from wage-fixing to suggestions for improving technical efficiency. The most important employer using the Whitley machinery is probably the Government itself.

The nationalized industries are in a special position. There, on the National level, the unions meet representatives of the National board of the industry which is compelled by a clause in each of the nationalization Acts to recognize them. Special agreements have been or are being negotiated to lay down the procedure for each case. Lower down there is contact between the administrative side of the industry and the unions at regional and district level. At the lowest level there is local provision for joint committees to be set up in the individual place of work — pit, power station, gasworks or garage. Obviously public ownership should facilitate the fullest contact and confidence between the two sides.

In effect, the vast majority of the workers in Britain are covered by one form of negotiating machinery or another. On the worker's side, the chief negotiating body is the trade union at all its levels, presenting his case to the employers and using its organized strength to protect him. At the topmost level of all, the General Council of the Trades Union Congress deals with the Government direct, and is always active in seeing that the worker's interests and his standard of living are defended. The unions jealously guard their independence from Government control. In the last resort of all, if negotiations fail completely, the unions will fall back on strike action. But the best proof of the effectiveness of the varied negotiating machinery is to be found in the rarity of disputes which lead to strikes.

Teacher: "How many bones do you have in your body?"

Willie: "About a thousand."

Teacher: "That's a great many more than I have."

Willie: "Well, I had sardines for lunch."

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14

Vancouver, Canada, August, 1949

Labor Day 1949 -- A Call to Action

Labor Day is one of merrymaking and relaxation for workers and a day on which the organized labor movement demonstrates its strength and solidarity. But it is more than that. It is a time for taking stock. It is a time when organized labor endeavors to measure its strength and its weaknesses and to weigh the gains and the losses of the past year. All this is done in order that the problems of the future may be squarely faced.

As labor studies its balance sheet on Labor Day, 1949, there is much that is encouraging. The trade union movement in Canada has made great forward strides since its humble beginnings in the latter part of the 19th century. Today almost a million members are enrolled in the ranks of organized labor.

On the asset side of the balance sheet, too, there stands labor's proud record as the champion of every progressive movement this country has known in the interests of the common people. It was organized labor that took the lead in the successful fight for free public education. It was organized labor that day in and day out fought an unrelenting struggle for every bit of progressive social legislation now on the statute books. Wages and working conditions of the unorganized, as well as the organized, workers of this country have been improved because of the sacrifices of the latter for the common good.

Much has been accomplished but a great deal remains to be done. On the liability side of the balance sheet is the mass of restrictive, anti-union labor acts which reactionary employers have persuaded obedient legislators to enact. There is the continuing inflationary cost-of-living spiral which has outdistanced wages and shattered living standards. There is the continuing threat to the unity and freedom of the trade union movement by the disruptive activities of communist leaders. There is the growing need of Canadian workers and their families for health insurance, old age pensions, a bill of rights, an acceptable national labor code, and for other social security measures.

These are the problems facing Canadian workers on Labor Day. Well-considered policies and intelligent action are the weapons with which the trade unions must carry on the fight for satisfactory solutions. Communist leaders can be effectively routed by removing the unsatisfactory conditions they exploit to further their own political aims. Living standards can be safeguarded by the re-imposition of price controls and effective checks on exorbitant profits. A determined nation-wide effort led by organized labor can force governments in Canada to take the necessary steps to remedy existing evils and improve the lot of the Canadian people.

Labor knows what it wants. It must act now to get what it wants.

Government's Proposed School Book Rental Plan

Parents with children in school will welcome the announcement made last June by the Provincial Government's Department of Education that commencing in September pupils in the elementary and high schools of B. C. will no longer be required to purchase their school textbooks but will have the choice of participating in a new book-rental plan.

This is a step in the right direction and the authorities are to be commended for initiating it. Too long have parents suffered from the burden of excessive costs for school books. Families with several children at school are hard pressed to meet the combined high cost of shoes, clothes, and books when the term opens each year in September.

While the Government is to be commended for this step, it is unfortunate that it did not take the teachers into its confidence and call them into consultation before launching its book-rental plan. For many years teachers on their own initiative have set up and operated book-rental plans on a co-operativle basis to assist pupils and relieve parents of the burden of excessive textbook costs. Some schools now complain that their plans operate at half, or even less than half, the annual rental of $3.50 to $4.00 a year which the government proposes to charge.

It is admitted that the first year must be in the nature of an experimental one with a view to making improvements later. It is hoped, however, that the educational authorities in Victoria will not hesitate to ask for the advice of teachers who have had experience with co-operative book-rental plans.

Labor's Other Weapon

Organized labor, quite properly, has always looked upon the strike as its most effective weapon for the purpose of achieving its aims.

There can be no doubt that the strike is Labor's strongest, and perhaps its only weapon when negotiations and all other means of reaching agreement with employers have failed. But what should not be overlooked is the fact that the strike is a reserve weapon. It is invoked only as a last resort. It is not, and cannot, be used in the day-to-day activities of trade unionists.

Organized labor possesses another powerful weapon, the effectiveness of which has not yet been fully recognized or employed. It can be used by trade union members, their families and friends in the conduct of their daily affairs.

It is the intelligent use of their purchasing power. If every trade unionist would spend his union wages on union-made goods only, and if the million organized workers and their friends would confine spending of their millions of dollars of annual income to union firms, they could collectively forge a weapon, no less effective and certainly less costly, than the strike in building better wage levels and union conditions.

PERCY BENGOUGH

President, Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. Member of Vancouver Machinists' Union, Local 692.

TOM ALSBURY

Vice-president of Trades and Labor Council, member of School Teachers' Association and a Parks Board Commissioner.

Labor Day, 1949

By PERCY R. BENGOUGH

Once again it is my privilege to issue a Labor Day message to the Canadian people on behalf of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. The Congress, which I have the honor to represent, is not only Canada's greatest labor organization but it is the largest organization of any kind in Canada based on the number of citizens comprising it. Financially there are many organizations made up of fewer, much fewer, individuals, who are far more powerful. However, this is the state of affairs that the labor Movement is endeavoring to adjust on a fairer and more satisfactory basis. The affiliated membership of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada extends across the Dominion from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island in some 3,000 odd local unions, and Trades and Labor Councils in all major cities. The workers affiliated are employed in all branches of our industrial life, construction, transportation in all its forms, manufacturing, public and private services; truly an organization representative of the working people of Canada.

The Research Department of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has brought to light some most interesting information regarding the origin of Labor Day in Canada. A Labor parade was held in Toronto in 1872. A motion was passed by the Trades anr Labor Congress in 1888 calling for legislation that would make Labor Day a national holiday and it is interesting to find that the Mayor of Ottawa in an address of welcome to the delegates to the Trades and Labor Congress in 1890 said: "I am delighted to have witnessed the grand celebration by which Labor Day was observed." It was the first celebration managed exclusively by working men in this city. Our records also show that in 1891 Montreal Trades and Labor Council had a Labor Day organization. The secretary of the Montreal Council at that time was Brother P. J. Ryan, still active in our movement. Mr. Ryan addressed a letter to the officers of the Trades and Labor Congress inviting them to take part in the Montreal Labor Day celebration and picnic to be held on Monday, September 7th, 1891. From then on each annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada passed resolutions asking the Dominion Government to enact legislation makig Labor Day, the first Monday in September in each year, a statutory holiday. This legislation was passed on the 23rd of July, 1894. From this it is clearly apparent who wanted this day as a national holiday and who had this day designated as a day for Labor to celebrate. It was the early desires and aspirations of those pioneers in Canada's labor movement. They put in a lot of effort to give us Labor Day and the least we can do is to properly celebrate and vitalize Labor's national holiday on this and each succeeding year. We can rightfully and fully celebrate past accomplishments and dedicate ourselves to carry on with even greater effort in the future.

During the past year the general public has been more than kept informed of differences that have taken place within the ranks of Labor. The reason is: it is the unusual that is news. There is nothing sensational in the fact that new unions have been chartered by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada at a little better than the rate of one a week during the past year. That's not news. That's progress. The fact that many thousands have been added to our ranks during the same period is good news to us, but such information will be unwelcome to the odd types who like to write of our impending downfall.

I can assure all on this Labor Day that the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has made marked progress during the past year. The Congress has increased in stature and prestige with no forebodings of the future. As for our differences, few who give any thought to such happenings would wish to see the day when we couldn't disagree. The only place where these things don't occur is behind the Iron Curtain, and the workers of Canada, as represented by this Congress, have no stomach for dictation and a wholesome dislike for domination. The Trades and Labor Congress is a free and voluntary organization. Every component part is that way by choice. The affiliated membership of this Congress are not by any stretch of the imagination revolutionists. They love this great country of which they are proud to be citizens. They set the highest valuation on their democratic freedoms. Believing in progress they are builders, not wreckers. They want assurance of security in useful employment with a standard of living that will allow them to have a good home in happy surroundings. They want laws established that will give adequate protection for all during illness and old age.

Canada is a wonderful country with untold natural resources which, if properly developed, could readily provide full employment with a standard of living in balance with all our reasonable needs. The desire of the workers, in fact of all people, is to go forward to a fuller life. Communism feeds on misery and injustice. Democracy is the most effective antidote to the menace of Communism. There can be no better objective for the combing Labor Year than to make democracy work.

Plumbers Reject Award

(Continued from Page 1)

adequate standard? Do we want to have only the bare necessities, or are we desirous of having something more? Are we going to be satisfied with all bread and no cake? The truth is that we should only look to the budget as a minimum below which we are not willing to sink. . . .

40% to 50% for Food

"Today the extreme increases in food prices force the average wage earner to spend a much higher proportion of his income on food than formerly. Many estimate that as much as 50% of the total family income now goes for food. Several mechanics' families of 4, whose current expenditures were examined, average over 40% of their expenditure on food and all of them are spending more than their present income.

"Another related and widespread development is the deterioration in quality with no change in price. An example which occurs to any mother is the short life of children's shoes now as compared before the war. It is a practical impossibility to make a precise statistical allowance for this induced increase in living costs, but this is not to say that the effect is of small importance, especially to lower income consumers . . .

"We are not unmindful of the fact that there are some who anticipate a recession in business and under the existing conditions it would provide an opportunity to reduce wages automatically and take no cognizance of any of our desires to have a higher standard of living. Economists of our organizations who have provided us with a survey and a plan of living indicate it requires a sum of $72.98 per week to maintain the average family in decency and comfort and with the rate of $1.75 per hour we would only be receiving the sum of $70.00 per week. When you take into consideration intermittent employment and the fact that our industry only provides about 80% employment opportunities makes our request fair and reasonable, but it would remove the fear and uncertainty from the workers that his standards of living were vulnerable and open to attack on a reduction of the prices or commodities . . . .

Department of Labor Survey

The study, appearing in the Labour Gazette, April, 1949, is the most comprehensive yet published in Canada, covering more than half a million employees in manufacturing industries. The results of the survey are presented in slightly condensed form in Schedules V to IX following. Highlights of the report are:

1. 98% of Canadian manufacturing employees are now covered by Vacation with Pay plans.
2. Six of the nine provinces now have provincial legislation providing for compulsory paid vacations. Four of these provide for one week with pay per year. Saskatchewan requires 2 weeks per year. Alberta requires one week after one year, 2 weeks after 2 years' service.
3. Canada as a whole has somewhat better vacation conditions than British Columbia. Thus 69.1% of Canadian employees can qualify for 2 weeks or more compared with 66.6% in British Columbia. 19.2% of Canadian employees can qualify for 3 weeks compared with 3.6% in B. C.
4. Workers in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta all have longer vacations on the average than do B. C. workers, partly as the result of more generous laws, partly through greater emphahis of vacations in collective bargaining.
5. The figures are for the year 1947. Undoubtedly, the figures for 1949 will show vacations today are longer.

A witness was being questioned during a charge of assault.

"You saw these men fighting," said the magistrate. "Why didn't you go to the assistance of the defendant?"

"Well, sir," replied the witness, "at that time it was impossible to foresee which would be the defendant."

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Trades Union Directory

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

Auto Workers' Union, Lodge No. 1857, I. A. of M.—Business Agent, Gordon Webb, 111 Labor Temple; FA. 9517.

Bakery Salesmen, Local 189, I. B. T. C. and H.—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. 130 — Secretary, C. E. Herrett, 201 Labor Temple; FA. 8762.

Beverage Dispensers and Culinary Workers, No. 835—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. 136—Secretary, P. J. Cape, 1128 Campbell Avenue, Abbotsford, B. C.

Bricklayers' Union, Local No. 1—L. Padgett, Sr., 3393 W. 31st; 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. 3179-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 PA. 8605.

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

Carpenters' Union, No. 452 — Secretary, James Smith, 100 Labor Temple; FA. 2396.

Carpenters' Union (Chilliwack), No. 1843 — Secretary, J. E. Towes, Box 482, Chilliwack, B.C.

Carpenters, Local 1251 (New Westminster)—Business Agent, J. T. Bannan, 1008 - 6th Ave., New Westminster, Phone N.W. 513R.

Carpenters (Nanaimo), Local No. 527 — Secretary, J. E. Oddson, 253 Nicol 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 59—Business Agent, W. M. Black, 5 Labor Temple; FA. 9233.

Civic Employees' Union (Burnaby), No. 23—Secretary, J. E. Wilson, 2131 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—Phyllis M. Cline, Box 432, Vancouver.

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

Distillery Workers' Union, No. 92 — (U.D.L.) — Secretary H. K. Gawne, 1745 Comox St., Vancouver, B. C.

Electrical Workers' Union, Local 218— Business Manager, George Gee, 116 Labor Temple; FAir. 7587.

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

Embalmers, Undertakers and Assistants Union, No. 23374 — Secretary, J. A. Dougall, 1334 Nicola Street, Phone MArine 3561.

Engineers, Hoisting and Portable, Local 115—Business Agent, A. W. Scott, 193 E. Hastings, Ste. 214-16, MArine 2849.

Engineers, School and Caretakers, Local 963—Secretary, George Zallo, 380 East 15th Avenue.

Engineers' Union (Stationary Operating), Local No. 882—Business Agent, Harry Berger, 193 E. Hastings, Ste. 214-16, MArine 2849.

Film Exchange Employees, Local 271— Secretary, C. W. Backus, 1928 East 40th Avenue.

Fire Fighters, No. 18—Business Agent, Hugh Bird, 3196 West 14th; CH. 5688.

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, 1978 E. Broadway.

Furniture Workers, U. B. C., Local No. 2533—Secretary, Olive King, 101 Labor Temple; FA. 9712.

Furniture & Mill Workers, U. B. C., Local No. 2534 (New Westminster)—Secretary, Stan Hazell, 356 East Sixth Ave., Vancouver, B. C.

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

Gas Workers' Union, Local No. 225 — Secretary, F. Russell, 8278 Fremlin St.; office phone: MArine 2958.

Hospital Employees' Union, No. 180 — Business Agent, W. M. Black, 5 Lobar Temple; FA. 9233.

Home Service Workers' Union, No. 211— Secretary, Mrs. J. Hallock, 685 West 10th; FA. 2007-L.

Hotel and Restaurant Employees, Local 28 — Business Agent, J. Price, 413 Granville St.; Phone PAcific 7933.

International Longshoremen's Association, Local No. 38/163 — Secretary, James Darwood, 2049 Kitchener St., HAstings 3154-M.

Ironworkers, Local 97—Business Agent, E. G. Cook, 110 Labor Temple; phone FA. 9126.

Jewelry Workers' Union, No. 42—Secretary, W. Routley, 144 West Hastings St., DExter 2493R. After 6, FR. 2774.

Ladies' Garment Workers, Local 276— Business Agent, C. Carr, 119 West Pender St.; Phone DExter 2782-M.

Lathers' Union, Local 207 — Secretary, M. Finlayson, 4848 Dumfries St.; FA. 0279-Y.

Laundry Workers, No. 292 — Business Agent, J. H. Irving, 115 Labor Temple; FA. 9612.

Lumber and Sawmill Workers, U. B. C., Local No. 2968 — Secretary, Hugh Wood, 101 Labor Temple; FA. 9712.

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

Machinists' Lodge, No. 151 — Secretary, J. D. Wildy, 1606 Seventh Avenue, New Westminster.

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

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

Marine Engineers, National Association of, Council No. 7—Secretary, D. Heard, 319 West Pender Street.

Milk Salesmen and Dairy Employees, Local 464 — Secretary, Birt Showler, 200 Labor Temple; FA. 8716.

Molders' Union, Local 281 — Business Afent, Louis Herzeg, 112 Labor Temple; FA. 9431.

Motion Picture Projectionists, Local 348, Business Manager, T. E. Foley; Secretary, J. H. Leslie, P. O. Box 345; Phone MArine 3043.

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

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Paper Makers' International Brotherhood, (Ocean Falls) Local No. 360 — Secretary, Geo. L. Weldridge, Ocean Falls.

Papermakers' Int. Brotherhood, Local No. 456 (New Westminster) — Secretary, Walter Ross, 222 Ninth Street.

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Refrigeration Workers, No. 516, U. A. J. P. S. F.—Secretary, L. R. Wintle, 137 West 40th, Vancouver; FRas. 4409.

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, 203 Labor Temple; FA. 8242.

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

Sheet Metal Workers, Local 280—Business Manager, James Walker, 207 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. Tyckoson, 4244 Prince Albert. FA. 3773-R.

Shingle Weavers' Union, Local No. 2802 —Secretary, Alex Low, 1184 West 73rd Avenue, Vancouver. Phone LAngara 0985-R.

Shipwrights, Boatbuilders, Joiners and Caulkers, Local No. 506 — Business Agent, J. Evans, 49 West Hastings. Phone TA. 3725.

Shoreworkers' Local of the U. F. & A. W. U. — Business Agent, Alex Gordon, 138 E. Cordova; Phone TAt. 3255.

Seafarers' Int. Union of North America —Secretary, B. Joyce, 565 Hamilton St.; PAc. 7824.

Sign and Pictorial Painters, Local 726— Secretary, J. Middleton, 5881 Dundas St.; phone, GLen. 1326-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 151 — Secretary, C. Gower, 204 Labor Temple; FA. 8716.

Teachers' Association, New Westminster —Secretary, W. K. Nevard, 1534 London, New Westminster.

Textile Workers' Local, No. 12—Secretary, Betty Mellis, 78 East Second Ave.

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

Tile Setters, Local No. 3—Secretary, W. Richards, Pleasantside P. O., B. C.

Tile Setters' Helpers, Local No. 78 — Secretary, K. S. Kennedy, 570 Rupert Street.

Truck Drivers' Union, Local No. 31 — Business Agent, Reg. Lenfesty, 208 Labor Temple; FA. 8714.

Typographical Union, Local 226—Secretary, Harry Neelands, 212 Labor Temple; FA. 2608.

United Garment Workers' Union, No. 232—Secretary, Mrs. R. L. Firth, 2426 Yale St.

United Garment Workers' Union, No. 190—Secretary, Walter W. Shaw, 3435 West 6th Avenue.

United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union — Secretary, Wm. Rigby, 138 East Cordova; TAtlow 3255.

University of British Columbia Employees' Union, No. 116—L. T. Funnell, 4634 W. 7th Ave.

Union Label Trades Council—Secretary, Ed. Smith, 307 W. Broadway.

RT. HON. HUMPHREY MITCHELL
Federal Minister of Labor

Labor Day Message, 1949

from
HON. HUMPHREY MITCHELL,
Minister of Labor.

Since last Labor Day an issue of great significance and far-reaching importance has come to the fore in the Canadian labor world—has come into the open throughout the whole international labor world.

Communism, with all its ominous implications, has been exposed in many quarters by responsible trade union workers. Its threat to all that trade unionism stands for, its insidious undermining of all the hard-won advances gained by labor over the years, its broader menacing purpose —these things are now being exposed to examination by all thinking people.

Far from finding a disturbing meaning in all this I myself am heartened by it, for trade unionism in Canada is showing clearly that it understands what is at stake, proving that it is founded on sound principles, has not lost that vigorous fibre which brought it to its most respected place in the affairs of this country, and is better equipped to deal with this menace than any other single class or group.

That trade unionism should be among the first to be attacked is a compliment to its present day position, for the first enemy of communism is free progressive thought and action when coupled with the fundamental principles of collective security. That trade uionism in Canada will deal effectively with this enemy and strike a resounding blow for the democratic way I have no doubt.

However, I know that the task is not an easy one. What is gained here today, can be lost there tomorrow, except where there is constant vigilance.

I commend your efforts during the year past and I can assure you that every true Canadian is in full support of the stand you have taken on this question of national concern.

My sincere greetings and best wishes to the working people of Canada.

Statutory Holidays On Mondays?

Plans of the federal government to enact legislation for the celebration of holidays on the Monday nearest to their actual date should be expedited as much as possible because this step is grossly overdue.

It is so far overdue that the public has started taking the revision of the holiday dates into its own hands.

For instance, when Empire Day this year fell on a Tuesday, thousands of workers across Canada took Monday off as well.

Similarly, when Dominion Day fell on a Friday, thousands were absent from work on Saturday.

Religious feast days and fixed dates like Christmas would not be disturbed by the projected ruling.

But all other statutory holidays would be made by law to fall on a Monday so that people could enjoy the long and restful holidayp and there would be no temptation to dissupti ndustry and business by taking intervening days as well.

GUESSING WITH GASOLINE

Amateur mechanics often have a habit of washing and degreasing motor parts in an open tin of gasoline. Gasoline does a fine job of cleaning, but people must realize the potential dangers associated with its use. It is highly inflammable, its vapor explodes from a tiny spark and its fumes may be dangerous in a confined space. Use it for the purpose for which it was intended.

A Half-Century of Service

This month, the *Labour Gazette* enters its fiftieth year of publication.

Established in an era when working conditions were at the whim of an employers' market, when the young trade union movement in Canada was struggling for recognition, the *Labour Gazette* clearly defined its policy and purpose in its first issue of September, 1900:

"The dissemination of accurate information relating to labour conditions and kindred subjects . . . . to be of service to workmen and others desiring reliable data on questions affecting labour . . . . and the well-being and status of the industrial classes of Canada."

Through fifty years of change, the *Labour Gazette* has adhered to this policy. Its monthly numbers contain news, statistics and articles on a wide variety of subjects in the labour economics field, which include:

—industrial relations, conciliation and disputes;

—prices and the cost of living;

—employment, wages and hours of work;

—activities of labour organizations;

—labour legislation;

—activities of the National Employment Service and the Unemployment Insurance Commission;

—labour demand and supply, and immigration;

—social, industrial and economic conditions in other countries;

—activities of the International Labour Organization.

As the labour and economic scene grows increasingly complex, the need for authoritative and unbiased information becomes greater than ever. The *Labour Gazette* provides this information.

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Industrial Co-operation

National Coal Board Report

From Herbert Tracey, of Britain's Trade Union Congress.
London, June 30, 1949.

Is there any genuine improvement in employer-employee relationships inside the publicly owned industries of Britain? Has nationalization of some industries given the workers more opportunities of participation in their administration? Is there any firm ground for the belief that a new and better system of industrial relations based on union-management co-operation is evolving within the nationalized industries?

A factual answer to questions of this sort is presented in the second annual report of the National Coal Board. One of the most significant sections of this report, from the trade union standpoint, deals with the policy and practice of the Board as the employer of nearly threequarters of a million miners. It is a most timely contribution to the triangular discussion now going on between the trade unions, the Labor Party and the Government about the structure and administration of the nationalized industries. This discussion, which has its difficult aspects, has reached an interesting point. The T.U.C. General Council is actually now collating and considering the views it has collected from affiliated unions by means of a questionnaire dealing with the operation of joint consultative machinery in the nationalized industries. Forty unions are concerned in this inquiry, all of which have members employed in the nationalized industries. More than half of them have already replied expressing, in the main, satisfaction with the formal procedure and operation of the consultative machinery; but indicating, too, that there are weaknesses in its working, and the machinery is not always used before policy decisions have been arrived at by the employing authority or the management.

Contented Industry

The report of the National Coal Board provides material for the elucidation of many of these problems. The avowed policy of the Board as employer is (as the report states) to "secure a contented industry in which management and men can strive together to increase the country's prosperity". The mining industry was the first to be nationalized, and in its second full year, its administration has converted a deficit of £23¼ million into a surplus of approximately £1,652,000. The first year's deficit was largely caused by the many improvements made in the wages and conditions of the miners, and the reorganization and re-equipment of the pits. As a result of increased production the earnings per shift of the miners, in the second year, rose by about 2s. 9d. a ton on the average, although the actual wage costs, offset by increased production, increased by only 2d. a ton.

The improvement in employer-employee relations in the industry is strikingly illustrated in the fact that neither in the first nor in the second year were there any official strikes—that is, strikes sponsored by the union. This remarkable state of affairs is unquestionably attributable to the highly developed methods of conciliation for the settlement of all questions of wages and conditions of employment, with powers of reference to an independent tribunal when direct joint negotiations fail to produce a settlement—the tribunal award being binding on both sides.

The operation of this conciliation machinery is also a factor in reducing the number of unofficial strikes in the coalfields.

Pit Meetings

The report emphasizes that most of the loss of output in the second year was caused by small strikes, and many of these occurred before "pit meetings" were held, and sometimes even before the matters in dispute had been taken up by the miner's union. As the miners became more familiar with the conciliation scheme the report says that a better spirit was manifested in negotiations. It is clear, too, that infinitely better and more far-reaching results will be secured in this field as the consultative machinery is more effectively used on both sides.

It is this consultative machinery which constitutes the main pattern of industrial relationships in the nationalized industry. Industrial conciliation is not a new principle, and neither is compulsory arbitration. The conciliation machinery of the nationalized mining industry is an adaptation and development of machinery which existed in the industry before it came under public ownership. But the consultative machinery is new. The creation of this machinery was enjoined upon the National Coal Board by the Nationalizing Act. The Board entered at once upon discussions with the main organizations representing the industry's employees, and as a result consultative arrangements were established on three levels—a national consultative council to discuss matters of national interest, similar councils for divisions and areas of the coalfields, and colliery consultative committees. These last are new.

There are about a thousand collieries under the Board's control. In all but a dozen or so colliery consultative committees are now at work. Six members of a colliery committee are miners elected by secret ballot on nominations made by the union's local branch, at least two candidates having to be nominated for each vacancy; the secretary of the union's local branch and the union's area agent are ex-officio members of the consultative committee of the colliery. It is at the pit that consultation between workers and management assumes its most practical significance.

Mrs. Professor—"Darling, do you know that you haven't kissed me for three weeks?"

Absent-minded Professor — "Good heavens; Then whom have I been kissing?"

Survey Backs Up Labor's Protest on Living Cost

Ottawa, July.—The dollar for all practical purposes is worth less than half of what it was a decade ago, figures of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reveal.

The measurement of the extent of Canada's dollar purchasing power was made in a survey of trading volume and values over the past decade.

The result supports organized labor's protests that the Bureau's cost of living figures, showing a rise of 60 per cent since World War II started, do not give an accurate picture of the situation.

Canada required only 46.3 cents to purchase, in 1938, the same quantity of imported goods as bore a dollar price tag last year. On the other hand, foreign buyers of Canadian commodities had to spend only 47 cents in 1938 to procure goods which cost an even dollar last year.

The trade survey shows that while the value of Canadian exports increased 267 per cent between 1938 and 1948, the physical volume went up only 73 per cent. The same trend held with regard to imports, which advanced 290 per cent in value, but only 81 per cent in volume.—Labor.

Distilled From the News

Plastics are finding many new uses. A California company now offers a moisture-proof, non-inflammable plastic laundry bag for transporting laundry from self-service laundries. Another concern has produced a swimming pool of colored plastic material, measuring 72 inches across. It holds 170 gallons of water—deep enough for youngsters to float in as well as wade—and folds up easily into a compact space when not in use.

Better golf balls are on the way. A new elastic substance, silicone "bounding putty", forms the most resilient centre ever found in a golf ball. An electronic device controls the tension of the thread wrapped around the silicone centre and gives uniform performance to every ball.

A new and revolutionary plastic moulding powder is now available in Canada through Canadian Industries Limited. With only the aid of a moulding press, this powder can be used to turn out as many as 30,000 small units every hour with each press. It requires no pre-heating, no pre-forming, no after-baking, buffing, grinding or polishing in the making. A finished product is produced in one action of the press. Fuse plugs, insulators, toys, bottle caps, buttons and a host of other products can be made from the powder which has the trade name of "Gladite."

An all-nylon reinforced truck tire was recently introduced in the United States. This new tire provides greater body strength, greater impact break resistance, more ton miles and more mileage than tires made with other cords. It will be offered as a premium tire for highway and off-the-highway use.

Scientists of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company (Inc.) have deevloped an instrument that detects one part of lead in 20,000,000 parts of air. It is used to protect the health of employees in the company's Deepwater, New Jersey, plant.

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ELECTRICIANS' BALL TEAM

This determined looking aggregation defends the honor and glory of Electrical Workers' Union, Local 213, every Wednesday evening at Woodland Park—in other words the gentlemen above comprise the IBEW ball team, Senior B League. Back row, left to right, we have Bob Sickle, coach; Andy Mann, Bill MacLennan, Tom Eaton, Don Wilson, Lorne Richardson, Aldor Masse, Albert Masse, Carmon Ovens. Sitting: Vern Britton, Ken Garrison, Chuck Lombardo, Bob Deeves, Johnny Heibert, Herb. Richards, bat boy Barry Bjornson. Absent: Ray Moffat, Mike Bjornson, Roy Leffler, Sam Andrews.—*Live Wire.*

When Will Business Face Real Facts?

There is a growing tendency on the part of business associations, and even of business itself, to ask labor to face the facts. Press organs mouthing the feelings of business firms have taken up a similar line. It would seem, on the surface, that this campaign has been designed to suggest to the public that unions and union leaders are not aware of the prevailing economic conditions, that such "mysteries" are only vouchsafed to the management of industry and commerce.

What are these "facts" that business would have the unions face? It would appear that one of them is "that profits are too small to allow companies to consider further wage increases". The second "fact" seems to be "that company profits are too small to finance any part of pension and other security measures proposed by some unions this year".

Whatever there may be in either of these "facts" that management could argue legitimately, it would appear that management prefers to hoodwink rather than convince the unions and the public.

An example of the type of "facts" that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association is presenting to the unions and the public is contained in a speech by Mr. Hugh Crombie, chairman of the Education Committee of theCMA, and an article in the organization's publication, "Industry". Mr. Crombie's thesis is succinctly stated in the title of his address—"Six Point Two". Profits made by 800 companies averaged 6.2 per cent of the total dollar sales of the companies. Of course, shareholders only received 3 per cent or half of this "profit".

Mr. Crombie's speech would have been better entitled "Two by Four", for that is exactly the kind of reasoning that he used. While there may be a few people in management of business who have sufficient spare time to doodle, to calculate strange averages and generally waste their time and the company's money, there can be little doubt that no responsible manager or treasurer ever spent much time working out profits as a percentage of sales in order to get information as to the financial condition of the company. Such mental gymnastics are about as practical as an inquiry as to the number of angels that could dance on a pin point. (One great scientist did work out the problem, but there is no indication of the practical application that might be made of his solution.)

However, the business propagandists apparently think that the public and the unions are sufficiently gullible to be impressed with this new business figure—profits as a percentage of sales. And it isn't necessary to look far for the reason such strange figures are being used. Business profits have been reaching very large proportions in recent years. Management has been enjoying the harvest, but it is showing some concern lest the public may relate large profits with high prices. The cost of living index hit the highest point in history in May of this year. (Profits, if the word has any meaning at all, means the return on capital invested in the business. This is to be clearly differentiated from the return on capital loaned to those who own the business, which is known as interest. Depending upon the accounting methods pursued, various adjectives may be appended to the word profits; but in the strict sense there can be no backing away from the basic notion of profits as defined above.) The same business propagandists for some years have been attempting to sell the public the idea that wages force up prices, but this campaign has failed as it was doomed to do from the first. (Prices lead the way up in the inflationary spiral. Wages scramble after prices as workers do all that they can to earn enough to meet the rising cost of living.) This new campaign to sell another fallacy to the public is also doomed. Rather than puruse these will-o-the-wisps, business management would be far better advised to take a real look at the facts themselves.

The first fact that business should admit is that wages must go higher if prices are even to stay at present levels. This fact, looked at from the worker's angle, appears only too obvious, since at present prices, current earnings are too small to match present living costs. This fact, looked at from management's angle, should be just as obvious, since at present income levels, current price and sales levels cannot be maintained.

The second fact that business would do well to face is that working hours should be shortened. It is not so long ago when working hours in most industries were very long—often as much as ten hours per day, six days a week. As the hours of work labor has increased. It would appear that some apologists for management still like to think that there is no direct relation between these two developments, but there is. A further shortening of hours would lead to further improvement in productivity. Improved productivity would lead to more profits, and an increase in the standard of living.

A third fact that should be engaging the attention of management is the need of the worker and his family for social security. Contented workers are the best investment the business has. Of course, there are those in managerial positions who spend their off-duty hours golfing, hunting or fishing, learning and being governed by the law of the jungle. Little chance of these people to think of any other law being at work in our economy. These are the people who continue to believe that only hungry mouths and fear can make workers stick on the job. Yet the results of surveys tell a different story. These surveys show that it is the contented worker that produces the most in the least time at the least cost.

The fourth fact to be faced by management is that all workers need jobs regardless of their ancestry, their place of birth, the color of their skin or the faith that gives reality to their lives. In almost every public utterance, the business world indicates its fear of enemies seeking to destroy the system under which it operates. If management would only face the facts, it would note that it itself is its only real enemy. Fair employment practices allowing all able and willing to work without discrimination would reduce the threat to business always present in an unhappy community.

Business has need to face these facts. It is in management's own interest to face up to its civic responsibilities. If the unions and the public are to take the claims of business seriously, then they must be taken into the confidence of management. But management must indicate that this is being done fairly and squarely. There should be an end of the current attempts to string the public and the unions along. If there is a sound reason why the present economic system should be maintained and developed, those who control it would do well to appreciate that the whole community is involved and vitally concerned. In the long run it is management that will suffer most from its own failure to face the real facts.

—Canadian Labor Reports.

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."

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"Ah dunno," replied his co-worker, "but from de look on his face, Ah thinks he meant 'Keep Peelin'."

H. W. WATTS
Electrical Workers Union. Secretary of Building Trades Council and Metal Trades Council.

HARRY BONNELL
Business Agent, Building Material Drivers' Local 213.

All in England Receive Fair Share of Essentials

By JAMES KILLEN
E.C.A. Labor Representative in London

Here in England the average man on the street must command the admiration and respect of all of us. For nearly ten years almost everything he has needed to feed and clothe his family has been in such short supply as to require rigid rationing. He is still required to go without a great many things which all of us at home think are absolutely essential to our physical well-being.

Almost all kinds of meat, eggs and dairy products are available only in very limited quantities and are distributed under the tightest control. Just recently there has been some relaxation in rationing as certain articles have become somewhat more plentiful. Wool clothing has been taken off the ration list, and there is a possibility that in the next few weeks more clothing may be removed.

One of the reasons these controls can be removed is that the items are priced so high as to discourage purchases by large numbers of people. On the other hand, available supplies of essential foods have been distribuated, in the most equal manner possible, to all parts of the British community, regardless of their social, economic or political standing.

This is perhaps one of the things that have resulted in the continuing support beig given the Labor (Socialist) government by the great mass of the British people.

Even in the face of the severe shortages, the rationing system has made possible a fair distribution of supplies of certain feed items required for infants and small children to all British families.

The national health program, which has been so criticized in the American press and by the American Medical Association, is perhaps the most popular and vigorously supported program of the Labor government. As one talks to people in the unions, in government and others, one gets the impression that this particular program is recognized by all groups as beneficial and sound, both as to its operation and financing.

In recent by-elections for individual Parliamentary seats, this program was not made an issue by the Conservative Party. Over 80 per cent of the medical profession itself is actively supporting the health program.

Britain is taking her recovery program seriously. Being an industrial country primarily, she must buy terrific volumes of both food and industrial raw materials abroad. North America at the present time is the only place where large portions of her imports can be obtained.

Products bought in America must be paid for in dollars, and it is this necessity for obtaining dollars to pay for imports that is one of Britain's greatest problems.

Her austerity program at home is designed to funnel as much of her production as possible into the export market. This is done even at the temporary sacrifice of the British people, in order to create dollar credits in other countries and to develop trade with areas other than North America which can provide the needed food and other goods. If obtained outside North America, much of these imports can be paid for with sterling, of which Britain has a plentiful supply.

There is a great difference in conditions within the various countries taking part in the Marshall Plan. Some countries have made very real progress in their economic recovery, while others have as yet not made enough progress to show up in improved conditions for the workers.

In the Scandinavian countries and in England economic recovery has been greatest, although they are still very dependent on Marshall Plan aid. In these countries there is either a Labor government or active participation in the government by the Labor or Socialist Party.

In each country there is a real sense of self-discipline and community responsibility. For example, there is practically no black market in either England or Scandinavia.

The people of Britain seem to have confidence in their government and a willingness to make sacrifices today for the sake of a better tomorrow.—Labor News.

Fair Employment Practices Paying Off

According to Joseph Bustard, a member of the New Jersey Commission administering the Fair Employment Practices law in that state, it is "the natural expression of the majority wishing to live within the law and of others finding that the law enabled and supported them in initiating that which they had desired but feared to do."

Four states of the Union now have Fair Employment Practices Commissions operating under the enabling acts. They are New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut. In the light of the experience under these laws there is a lot to be said in favor of the passage of similar legislation in our provinces. Of course, one province, Saskatchewan, has a Bill of Rights Act which embraces all that these laws in the United States provide and more. Other provinces could follow the lead of either the four states or the province of Saskatchewan with confidence that such laws would improve community and group relations.

In general a Fair Employment Practices law simply requires that every person applying for a job must be judged solely on his merits and ability—without concern for his race, religion or national origin. It does not require the employer to hire a certain personage of any group. He may employ whom he will in accordance with his own standards, provided only that a qualified person is not rejected because of his race or religion.

Religious, social, fraternal, charitable, and educational associations are not regarded as employers, and as such not subject to the law, unless they are organized for private profit. Neither do employers come under the law who have less than six persons in their employ.

In the four states having these Fair Employment Practices laws many firms have voluntarily changed their employment practices following the establishment of the Commissions. The result in these firms is to give employment to people of certain races and religious who had been overlooked previously or even denied employment.

More than 1,200 cases charging discrimination in employment are being settled each year in the four states, yet not one of these cases has required a public hearing. Conciliation and persuasion have been found to be sufficient for settling every case.

The experience of department stores and other retail establishments which under Fair Employment Practices laws, employ people of many races and religions, clearly demonstrates that a fair employment policy dies not discourage customers from patronizing them. As a rule it is equally true that in the experience of banks, telephone companies, restaurants, industrial plants and utility corporations a Fair Employment Practices law does not create trouble between employees of different races and creeds.

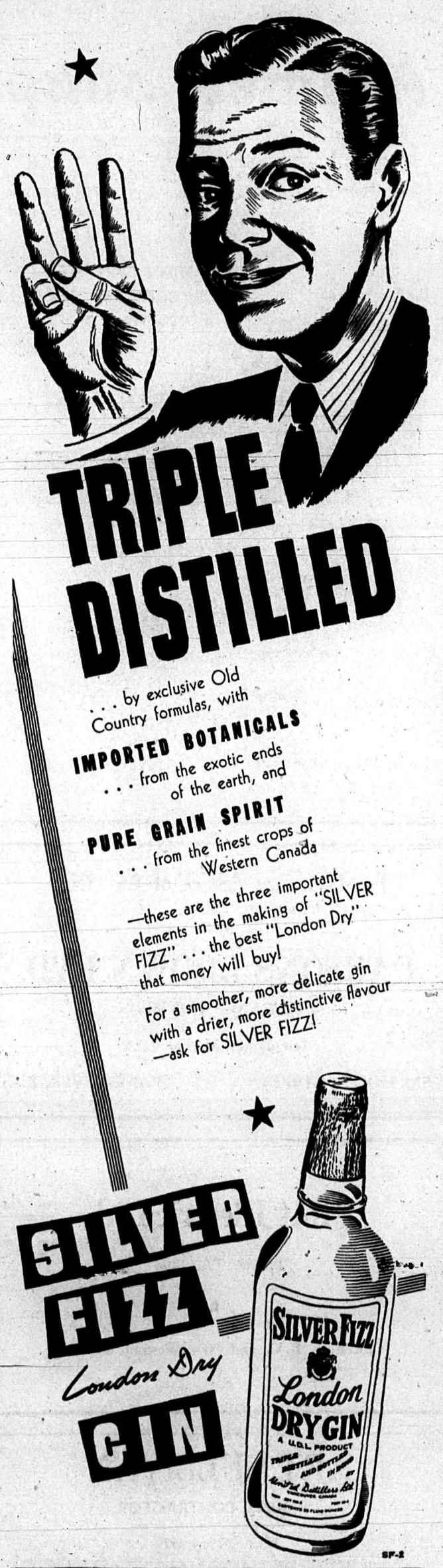
That a man has the right to work in the same sense that he has the right to speak and worship will not be disputed by anyone. A Fair Employment Practices law means no more than this—as the state is obliged to secure to them the right to speak and to worship, so it is obliged to secure to them the right to work at jobs for which they are qualified, without concern for race- color or creed. That is why such laws receive wide support in the United States. It is fair to suggest that that is why they would receive equally wide support in Canada.—Canadian Labor Reports.

Racial intolerance and religious bigotry are ready-made cloaks to hide the actions and aims of the wicked.

Labor Costs Are Not the Big Item

Ottawa—Despite anti-labor propaganda, the cost of labor in the construction industry has not increased in proportion to material and other costs.

The payroll at the site accounted for about a third of total construction cost of new housing built during 1946-47 in 18 industrial areas surveyed in the area housing program of the (U.S.) Bureau of Labor Statistics. This proportion was approximately the same as that in the 1931-32 survey. According to bureau findings, the ratio of site wages to total construction cost remained fairly stable over this 15-year period when economic conditions were changing markedly. Average hourly earnings were substantially higher, but material and other costs rose commensurately with wages.—People's Weekly.



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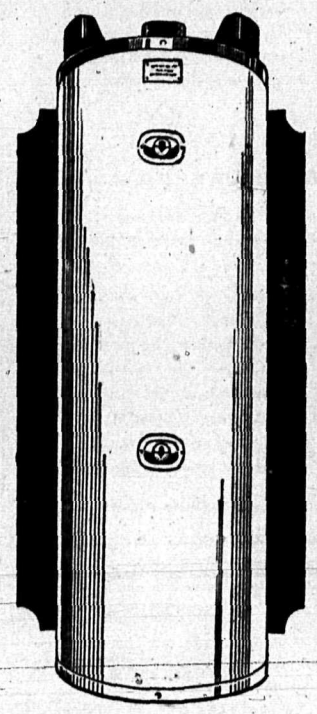

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Business Agent of Taxi Drivers' Union, Local No. 151.

CHARLES GOWER

Business Agent, Taxi Drivers' Union, No. 151.

Address of Vice-Pres. Beck to Chauffeurs & Taxi Conference

Mr. Chairman, my associates: I wanted particularly to come before this group and say a few words. One of the phases of our jurisdiction that is largely unorganized throughout the United States is the taxicab division. I am very much in favor of finding a way to correct this condition. I want, however, to be very frank with you who are here representing either taxicab locals or areas where they are unorganized. I feel that the only way to solve any problem is to lay all the facts on the table and deal with them there.

I am frank to admit that if I report accurately to you this morning, with respect to the opinion of our International officials who have long been charged with the duty of guiding the destinies of this organization, I must tell you that they have not looked with favor upon the organization of taxicab drivers by the Teamsters. They have reached this conclusion as the result of many years of bitter experience in many American cities. I make this report to you because I think you should have the facts.

When you know the facts, and when you understand the sentiment in connection therewith, you can then more accurately guide yourselves along the road we should travel to reach our goal. In my personal judgment, there is no valid reason that anyone can advance why taxicab drivers should not be organized in every nook and corner of the United States and Canada in the same manner as any other group of men and women who are working for their living. The fact that the taxicab drivers have, in some instances, given a great deal of trouble to our International Union, or the feeling that they have done so, is due in a large measure to the peculiar conditions that surround the industry.

Conditions Have Been Deplorable

Taxicab drivers have worked for many years under the most deplorable conditions all over this country. In some instances the character of those who are involved in ownership and management in the industry has not been above reproach. The opinion has been planted in the minds of the public, that, from time to time, the agencies of law enforcementfi from the higher federal levels down to the municipalities, have found the taxicab industry linked with those who are associated with crime. Bootleggers, rum-runners, those who engage in the sale and transportation of narcotics, and those who are engaged in illicit professions, such as prostitution, because of the big profit possibilities in such ventures, often have found allies in the taxicab industry. There is no point in closing our eyes to the facts.

It is my judgment that if the taxicab industry in the future is to continue upon such an unsound business policy, it does not merit the attention of those who represent our International Union, our joint councils, our locals, or our state and district organizations. If, however, we are going to elevate this industry to the high plane now occupied by other legitimate American industries, in which the majority of our people are employed, then we must strike with all resources at our command to encourage men of character, ability and understanding to become associated with it. We must compel the adoption of a policy of decency and honor by the industry in order that sufficient return may be taken from it to attract the highest type of operating personnel.

There are thousands upon thousands of the finest kind of men and women engaged in the taxicab industry today for their livelihood. In a great many instances they have their own money invested in small operating fleets. Many of them have had to suffer far too long under the influence of corrupt political life in order to stay in business, and by virtue of the conditions imposed upon them—I am speaking now from the industry standpoint—they had been forced to tolerate many things that, under no stretch of the imagination, can stand up under the test of the time as good and sound business conduct. So, in talking to you people, who are starting to form an international taxicab drivers division, I do not want any misunderstandings.

Will Not Dodge Issue

I do not want to dodge, in the slightest degree, any of the issues that are involved; I want to accept, completely and fully, in the national office and elsewhere, all of the responsibility that should rest upon me when we start a national taxicab organizing campaign. I admit to you frankly that I am not going to find unanimity of opinion among those who guide our International Union. Nevertheless, to my way of thinking, the predominating factor that should actuate every man associated in any capacity with this International Union, its locals or its subdivisions, when we engage in an organizing campaign is that we accept in full the responsibility that goes with it. It therefore becomes our strict duty, when we find onerous conditions existing in an industry, to so act that we do not penalize those who have to work in it for their livelihood. We must, if it becomes necessary, associate ourselves in a combination to eradicate those things which are detrimental to the welfare of our people and in contradiction to sound public policy. We accept that responsibility.

It makes no difference where a company is located ,there are men and women driving the cabs and working in other positions in the industry, who are entitled to the full beneficial results that can come from sound organization, the same as if they were working on bakery trucks, laundry trucks, in general hauling, as material drivers, or anywhere else.

I think the condition in this industry is one of the crying shames of America. I have made that statement to many taxicab company operators, because I have been negotiating taxicab contracts for more than 25 years. I have taken part in taxicab conferences all up and down the western seaboard and in parts of this eastern country. On many occasions I have said to the employers what I am saying to you today: This industry will not stand the test of time unless it accepts the responsibility of operating in concert with sound public policy. If it does not so order itself, it will have restrictive legislation — munipical, state and otherwise—imposed upon it as a penalty for violating decent, ethical rules of operation.

If the owners of this industry want to operate their business to attract the riffraff, they will pay an even heavier penalty for so doing. The men and women of character, who conduct themselves as upright citizens and who want to find their employment in honorable business, will isolate themselves from the taxicab business. Let me say to you right now, speaking very frankly and factually and without pulling punches, there are thousands of instances in this country today where men and women who work on taxicabs are hiding the fact from their next door neighbors. They do this because they are in a type of employment that has sunk to a very low standard in the minds of a tremendous number of people.

One of the things we must do, as we develop organization and insist upon wages, hours and working conditions—one of the things we accept the responsibility to do—is to improve the conduct of the industry itself, so that no man need feel ashamed of being employed in it.

No Short Road to Success

There is no short and easy road to success in accomplishing this. It is going to take us a considerable period of time, but if we develop this national organizing machine in the taxicab industry upon that solid foundation, we will merit and we will receive the support of mediums which, over a long period of time, have been unfriendly to the cab industry. We will find that such a policy, if we honestly put it into effect and if we exemplify it in our own conduct, will be applauded by the press, by those who are associated in church activities, as well as by those who believe in the moulding of an honorable relationship between Labor and Capital.

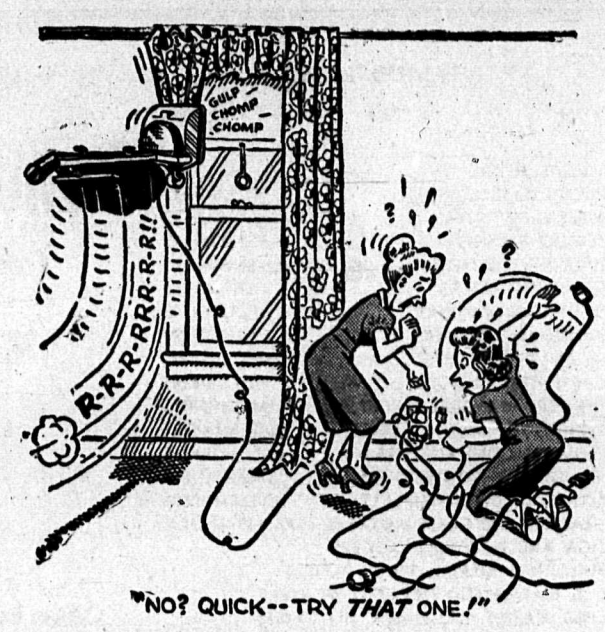
With these few words, I call upon you, and all our people, to accept their responsibilties and to face the facts. There may be those who will contradict me by saying: "Oh, you are talking about a minority." That is true; it is a great minority, but unfortunately that minority has been permitted to get away with some of these abuses so long that it has placed a stigma on the entire industry in the minds of millions, and on the people who are engaged in the industry.

If we are to attract to the taxicabs the highest type of personnel, they must receive a compensation that will be a magnet for that attraction. We must also get the taxicab industry under regulation in every corner of the nation. I believe in the free enterprise system. No man in America believes in it more thoroughly than I do. I recognize the fact that we will attract good personnel to our industries when we make those industries attractive to them. Unless industry compensates them adequately, it will not get them. There is no other way. This is just as true in the universities as it is in the taxicab industry.

We must take off this industry the peering eyes of local police departments, sheriff's offices, highway patrols, the FBI and every other law enforcement agency. Every man in this room knows this is the truth.

Sometimes the truth hurts. It is not always popular to utter the words of truth. Yet, it is necessary to utter them and to give emphasis to them in order to correct conditions that have grown up in this industry. Too long has the general public said: "Well, if Joe Doakes gets into a taxicab in an intoxicated condition, he will wake up in a dive and he will be rolled." Too long have the police been circulating among the drivers in certain locali-

(Continued on Page 12)



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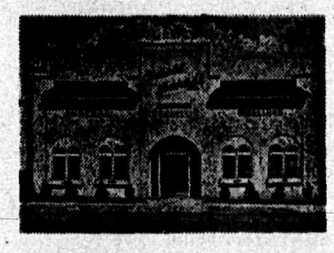

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THE VANCOUVER, NEW WESTMINSTER AND DISTRICT

Building Trades Council

Composed of 26 Affiliated Locals

MEETS SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAYS

IN LABOR TEMPLE

Phone: FAirmont 4343

Office: Room 102, Labor Temple 307 West Broadway

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President: J. Stevenson (Carpenters)
Vice-President: F. Carlisle (Plumbers)
Secretary-Treasurer: H. W. Watts (Electricians)
Trustees: E. Kennedy (Painters), J. Walker (Sheet Metal Workers), H. Jorgensen (Building Laborers)

BOARD OF BUSINESS AGENTS

MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY, 10 A.M.

F. Carlisle (Plumbers)
A. W. Scott (Engineers)
J. Stevenson (Carpenters)
S. C. Allen (Pile Drivers)
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H. W. Watts, Secretary and Business Agent

JACK STEVENSON
Business Agent, Carpenters' Union No 452; Executive member of Trades and Labor Council.
President Building Trades Council.

Building Trades Council Notes

By H. W. WATTS

Because the cost of living continues to rise, affiliates of the Building Trades Council are now getting a five cents an hour increase in wages based on the clause in agreements which provide for a 5c increase when the government index reached 160 points.

The trades to which this is applicable from August 1st and the new rates are:

Asbestos Workers	$1.58
Building Laborers	1.15
Boilermakers (Construction)	1.80
Bricklayers and Masons	1.80
Building Material Truck Drivers	1.17
Carpenters and Joiners	1.60
Cement Finishers	1.55
Engineers— (Operating and Hoisting)	1.72
Jack Hammermen and Breakermen	1.35
Machinists (Construction)	1.70
Plumbers & Pipefitters	1.70
" " Helpers	1.20
Reinforced Ironworkers (Rodmen)	1.47
Shinglers and Roofers	1.60
Welders (Field)	1.80
(Helpers)	1.50

Increases for other trades will go into effect September or October 1st and these and the new rates are:

Painters and Decorators (Brush)	$1.40
(Spray)	1.50
Pile Drivers, Bridge & Dock Builders	1.65
Structural Iron Workers (October)	1.80

These increases will remain in effect for six months from date of increase, when another review of the index will take place, and wages adjusted 5c up or down, for five points from 160.

* * *

The third contract for another group of houses (68) will soon be under way on the Fraser View Project —all union. Tenders are also being called for another group out of the total of 1,100 planned for the project.

* * *

The Maritime Construction Ltd. has the job to build 35 houses on Sea Island. This is a new firm, which has an agreement with Building Trades Council for an all-union job.

* * *

Construction work is showing considerable improvement and we are well out of the set-back the weather gave the industry last winter. Prospects for practically full employment in the industry looks good for the balance of this year, and the uptrend in business generally appears to assure the industry of good prospects for another year or two.

* * *

Secretary Millman of the Building Laborers' Union reports that R. R. Shortreed, Cement Contractor of 3075 West 37th Avenue, is again signed up with the union. The Ideal Concrete Co. Ltd. has also been signed up.

* * *

Construction Boilermakers report Bill Sutherland of 220 Salisbury Drive singed up as a union firm.

* * *

Harry Bonnell of the Building Material Drivers' Union says Ted Best Limited of 120 East Columbia St. in New Westminster has signed up as well as Burt Russell of 3660 Cambie and the [illegible] Construction Co. of 445 West Second Avenue.

* * *

Lathers report a sub local, in New Westminster and the following firms under agreement: W. C. Skinner, 727 Gladstone Road, Cloverdale; O. A. Garrison, 841 4th St., and L. Scott, 1752 Edmonds St., New Westminster. The new wage scale is $1.75 per hour.

* * *

Frank Carlisle of the Plumbers and Pipefitters reports the following new firms signed up: DeBrincat Plumbing & Heating, 6560 Victoria Drive; Vancouver Pipe Works, 1571 East Pender St.; Premier Oilburner Sales and Service Ltd., 914 East Hastings Street; Johnson Temperature Regulating Co. of Canada.

* * *

Ted Loftus, who was acting Business Agent for a short time for the Bricklayers' Union, put the following firms under union agreement: A. & A. Masonry Ltd., 1260 Government Rd.; Brick and Masonry Construction Co., 2241 William St.; J. C. Hemburg, 4259 Oxford St.; Griston Construction Co., 1281 East 29th; Wm. Muirhead, 3648 Rumble, New Westminster.

* * *

Alex Dorland, assistant Business Agent of Electrical Workers' Union, reports several new electrical contractors signed up with the union. These include Ace Electric Service Co.; Delta Electric, Davies Electric Co. Ltd. of New Westminster, Industrial Electricians Ltd., Monarch Electric, Ricketts-Sewell Electric Ltd., C. K. Pat Waters Ltd. and the Powerlite Engineering Ltd. The Cemco Electrical Manufacturing Co. Ltd. has also been signed up, as well as the B.C. District Telegraph Co. Ltd.

* * *

The Millworkers Union No. 2534 has affiliated with the Council. These members are employed as furniture, fixture and sash and door workers.

Firms employing the members under union agreements are: Shaw Bros. Ltd. of 510 East Columbia; Tru-Fit Millwork, 2950 Beresford Street; West-Min Woodcraft, 1286 Kingsway, and Dodd & Steel Furniture Co., of 1470 Edmonds St., all in New Westminster. Don't forget these firms when you need these materials.

* * *

James Walker, Business Agent for the Sheet Metal Workers' Union, reports the following new firms operating under union agreements: J. Sanford Sheet Metal, 175 West Cordova St.; Industrial Sheet Metal, 1256 Powell St.; Thompson & Co., 2725 Main St.; Alma Heating, 3514 West 4th; J. DeBrincat Sheet Metal, 6560 Victoria Drive; Enterprise Sheet Metal, 3920 Fraser St.; Hingley Lea and Meagher, 1685 Venables.

* * *

Business Agents Jack Eeaves and Ed. Kennedy of the Painters' Union have the following new firms under union agreements: G. Carlson, 145 East St. James, North Vancouver; W. R. Clough, 2848 West 18th; Allen Gerllays, 1175 West 15th; E. H. Muskett, 333 No. 3 Rd., Lulu Island; Pat McCaffery, 1646 Kamloops; Sanford & Newson, 5652 Lancaster, and Geo. J. Walker, 808 McNaughton Crescent, North Vancouver.

ERNIE G. COOK
Business Agent, Iron Workers' Union Local No. 97.

Greater Vancouver Building At $30,546,242 for 7 Months

Construction valued at $30,546,242, and comprising 7035 projects, has been put under way in the Greater Vancouver area during the initial seven months of the current year, according to report by building officials of the city, Burnaby, North Vancouver City and District and West Vancouver. In the corresponding period of 1948, 8255 jobs worth $31,639,850 were commenced.

Volume and value of building started last month were lower as compared with July, 1948. Last month, 1068 permits were issued for jobs costing $4,456,220, and included 421 residences valued at $2,426,540. During July, 1948, 1265 permits were authorized for projects entailing an outlay of $4,943,202, including 479 new dwellings costing $3,096,500.

Volume and value of projects started last month in the various districts of the Greater Vancouver area as against a similar period of 1948, is shown below:

	July, 1949				July, 1948			
	Total		Dwellings		Total		Dwellings	
	Permits	Value	Permits	Value	Permits	Value	Permits	Value
City	681	$ 2,561,155	217	$ 1,255,650	795	$ 2,804,809	327	$ 1,826,450
Burnaby	230	635,880	115	538,150	268	1,442,183	164	675,550
N.V. city	37	132,930	21	127,340	41	141,960	19	106,900
N.V. dist.	76	424,255	48	320,700	66	283,400	44	256,800
W. Van.	44	701,800	20	184,800	55	270,850	25	230,800
July	1068	$ 4,456,220	421	$ 2,426,540	1265	$ 4,943,202	479	$ 3,096,500
7 mths.	7035	$30,546,242	2763	$16,067,780	8255	$31,639,850	3757	$20,492,060

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF

Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforced Ironworkers, Machinery Movers, Derrickmen and Riggers

LOCAL 97

Vancouver and Vicinity

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President, J. Fitzpatrick Vice-President, A. McPherson
Recording Secretary, Lew Souter
Financial Secretary and Business Agent, Ernest G. Cook

★

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LOCAL No. 3

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BIRT SHOWLER
President, Trades and Labor Council; Secretary, Milk Salesmen's Union and Teamsters' Joint Council. B. C. Vice-President Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

LABOR DAY MESSAGE

From President BIRT SHOWLER

The trade union movement is in a healthy condition and is making good progress. The Trades and Labor Congress is well in front as the major labor body in Canada, with almost half a million members. During the past year a great many new members have joined the ranks of organized workers in the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. The Vancouver and District Trades and Labor Council has played a leading role in securing these additional members and in building the organized labor movement in this area.

The trade union movement is increasingly taking an important place in international affairs. National leaders and governments are more and more looking to the trade unions for help in working for peace and in increasing production to repair the ravages of war and to feed the hungry peoples of the world.

At last, a world federation of free trades unions has come into being. The communist-dominated federation has now been thoroughly discredited and the CIO and the British Trades Unions have withdrawn from it. The Canadian Labor movement has been active, and will continue to be active, in advancing the cause of working people on the internaotional level in the interests of peace and higher standards of living.

While it is encouraging to review and record the great strides which labor is making both at home and abroad, it is important that all of us keep our feet ou the ground. We must always remember that progress is not achieved through indulging in rosy dreams or spinning fine theories. Progress is achieved through an active rank and file membership, doing the practical, day-to-day job that will ultimately bring us to the attainment of the objectives of labor for the betterment of all who work.

Alderman Gervin Endorsed by T. L. C.

Delegates to the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council endorsed Alderman R. K. Gervin to stand for re-election as labor candidate in the forthcoming civic elections in December.

Brother Gervin was first nominated and elected as council candidate four years ago, and was re-elected for his second term two years ago.

In moving the endorsation, Bro. Hugh Bird, Firefighters, paid tribute to the work done on the City Council by Secretary Gervin in the interests of labor. Without some labor representatives on the City Council, it would be a one-sided body heavily weighted in favor of business interests.

"I feel that it is in the interest of organized labor to keep aldermen in the city hall," he said.

In raising the matter, Secretary Gervin said he wished to know the attitude of the delegates in view of the fact that he is employed by the T. & L. Council, and wished to make his plans accordingly. He pointed out that he had not been anxious to run previously or at present, but would be directed by the wishes of the unions.

Investigation of Accidents Demanded

SRU OPPOSED ANNUAL DRIVERS RETEST

As a result of dissatisfaction with proposals for the annual retest of drivers in B. C., the Executive of the T. & L. Council submitted the following resolution, which was passed unanimously:

"Inasmuch as we are strongly opposed to workers being compelled to lose wages, as well as being required to pay for periodic drivers' tests, and we are not satisfied that drivers' tests alone are a solution to the accident problem,

"We urge that the Provincial Government set up a commission to study the accident problem in this province and to make recommendations beneficial to the public."

The resolution arose out of a communication received from the Street Railwaymen's Union, Division 101, protesting the action of the attorney-general's department in requiring all "A" bus operators to take a retest every year.

The SRU is also opposed to the imposition of any charge in connection with these retests.

Her car stalled at the corner. The light changed colors, red, yellow, and green, several times while she tried to start. Then a cop walked over, put his foot on the running board and said: "What's the matter, lady; ain't we got any colors you like?"

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Affiliated with

The B. C. Provincial Association of Fire Fighters
The Vancouver Trades and Labor Council
Civic Federation of Vancouver

President: H. S. BIRD Vice-President: H. WRIGHT

Membership Registrar: F. C. BAIN

Secretary-Treasurer: H. G. FOSTER, 4469 Gladstone Street

Phone: FAirmont 3714-R

ERNIE HOLMES

Business Agent, Bakery Salesmen's Union No. 189.

REG. LENFESTY

Business Agent, Teamsters' Union No. 31.

VICE-PRESIDENT BECK ADDRESSES CHAUFFEURS

(Continued from Page 9)

ties in the country and using them as agencies of information. Too long have those charged with enforcement of the anti-narcotics laws made their contacts through the taxicab operations to get information. I am not talking through my hat, either. I have that positive information both from personal contact and by checking up on the facts. I know exactly what I am talking about.

Organizing Drive is a Must

We must conduct an organizing campaign to put this industry on a high plane. We have thousands of men and women in the United States who are engaged in driving taxicabs who are the finest kind of citizens, who own homes, and are raising splendid families. They have the same ideals as other decent citizens. They want their children to have the best possible education and to take their places in the social and economic life of America, with credit to their parents and as a contribution to the welfare of this country. I advocate that we approach the campaign to organize taxicab drivers throughout the country, with the avowed intent—let us anounce it to the world!—of winning wages, hours and conditions of employment that will rank with the best industries anywhere.

This industry requires exceptionally skilled men, physically fit, sound of body, with good vision, and properly organized so that it can be a great asset to every city in the land. Chambers of Commerce, retail trade bureaus, amusement industries, the entire sphere of business activity in any city can be aided greatly by a good, sound, intelligent, functioning taxicab operation. It can be a source of information to tourists as well as a guarantee to the people that they have a fine transportation system.

Going to Have Regulation

We are going to have regulation. Under our competitive system every phase of the transportation industry has come under regulation, largely because those who controlled the industry abused their privileges. We have regulation in over-the-road trucking because those who were engaged in the industry abused their privilege through vicious methods of cutthroat operation. They created a condition that caused the public to favor regulation by the Interstate Commerce Commission. They must file their rates, and they must observe rules and regulations because, unregulated, they could not and did not operate in the public interest. They cannot cross state lines without licenses or certicates from the ICC, because the public suffered from jungle-law methods, before these rules were adopted. In city after city there is regulation, and in nearly every state, even down to local cartage rates.

One of the gravest problems confronting this International Union today, and the great industry from which so many thousands of its members derive their living ,is that of unfair and unjust competition—unfair not only to those who have invested their money in the industry, but also unfair to our people who man the trucks and work in the warehouses. I refer to gypsy and farmer operation and threat imposed by individual operations.

There is a place in this industry, as in others, for the individual to make his investment and then, by virtue of hard work in the conduct of his business develop himself into an employer rather than employee. None of us would interfere with this American concept of capitalism or deny any man that privilege. Yet, we would not authorize him to abuse that right.

One of the serious problems that confronts the general truck driver is the illegitimate competition of the farmer, who drives to the city market with his produce. No member of the Teamsters Union would deny him that right. Yet, when the farmer picks up lumber, building materials, general freight of all kinds, and hauls this cargo back, often hundreds of miles beyond his return destination, he steps out of the role of the farmer and becomes a carrier for hire. He any rate he can get, without respect to the established state and ICC rate schedules; he pays no Social Security; he carries no insurance; he is exempt from safety and equipment checks; he pays no industrial insurance, medical aid, or unemployment compensation taxes, which licensed and certified common carriers from whom he takes the business, must observe and must pay.

Cites "Vicious Competition"

That type of competition, we insist, is vicious in that it imperils the industry which is the sole service to thousands of communities and which is the backbone of our highway transportation system. Because the illicit farmer competition jeopardizes the trucking industry, it also is prejudicial to the public welfare. Because it places a burden upon the legitimate carrier, it tends to reduce the wages of our people and to prevent the improvement of hours, and working conditions. We know that we cannot take something out of a bucket if it isn't in the bucket; we cannot take good wages from a trucking industry that is forced to carry the unjust and vicious load imposed by unfair farmer competition.

I retract not one word I have said with respect to employers, employees, or to any agency of government, law enforcement or otherwise. I hold that in a large measure many of the evils that have developed are due to the fact that the pressure of law enforcement agencies has been placed upon this industry.

In many instances, the industry has been informed that unless information was forthcoming, or efforts made to obtain it, then the agencies of law enforcement would exercise their opportunity to put pressure upon both the operator and the driver. Thus the men in the industry were forced to consider if it wasn't best to take part in stool-pidgeoning so that they would not be put under the pressure from many angles of the law. That has got to stop. It will stop,. but it will not stop tomorrow. It may take us a year, or five years, or ten years to elevate this industry in public opinion to the point where we can stop this sort of thing. But, we will never get wages and hours and working conditions in this industry until we do it.

I make this prophecy right here and now, and it will be written into the record, and time will prove if I am right or wrong; you will never get away from the onerous conditions of commission operations without guarantees until you start to do things in this industry which we must do in order that the weight of the economic action of our membership can be impressed upon the employers, and until we can organize and get the strength of all our unions to aid and assist the taxicab drivers. I have talked to some of the men in New York, and they feel as I do. They feel that in that great city, and in many other cities, the taxicabs should be organized. They also know from their years of experience that when we start to organize, we accept the responsibility also of creating a condition in the industry that will permit good wages, hours and conditions.

Must Have Profitable Industry

Decent wages cannot be paid, gentlemen, if we have a reckless, unreasonably competitive structure that will not permit the industry to be profitable. We cannot get wages if the industry is operating in such a manner that drivers are working broken shifts and men are coming out of some other line of employment, as they do in Washington, D. C.

In the national capital a man can work all day in a government office and then, in the peak hours, when there is a tremendous flow of traffic, he can drive a taxicab, either owned by himself or by someone else, and skim the cream off of the business. You and I know this is a bad condition, and it must be corrected, but you will never correct it until you organize.

We have seen what has happened in the greatest city in America. It was doomed to failure. Every man of ours in New York with whom I talked said that it would fail, because they had an understanding of true organization and they knew that it was not organized upon a basis that would stand the test of time. We are not going to organize the taxicab industry and make our organization stand up if we use skull and knuckle and alley rules. The day for that kind of strategy, if it ever existed, has passed. Now we must have brains, and ingenuity and ability and an understanding of the intricacies of the industry's problems, so that we can make progress for our people intelligently, by becoming so valuable that the employer himself cannot dispense with our services or risk the loss of the good we contribute to the welfare of his industry.

Sees Great Organization Need

I feel deeply upon this subject. I recognize fully the responsibility that rests with me since I elected to call this conference. At the same time I am compensated in my own mind by the realization that there are no working people in the United States and Canada that have a greater need for organization. There is no other industry for which we can do more good. The people engaged in it, in the overwhelming percentage of instances, are outstanding, reputable people. The minority will not stand the test when we conduct ourselves and see to it that this industry is conducted in the best interests of the public, which automatically is in the best interests of the employer and of ourselves.

I hope that you will appoint a Policy Committee representative of your entire organized structure in the United States and Canada, that you will select men for their ability rather than their popularity, that you will approach your problem slowly and judiciously, that you will weigh carefully every move before you make it, that you will start selling the idea of organization to your Teamster associates in each city where you may plan to begin work, that you will plead for the advice and assistance and co-operation of all those who, either by experience or personal contact, can aid you. If you do these things, we will make a start, and from that start eventual success will develop. When we meet here again in conference in six months, or a year, or two years, we will be able to look back and see that we have traveled the right road, that we have not only organized the employees but, by reason of taking an interest in the industry, we have placed it on a plane so high that many of the evils, which I have discussed with you this morning, have passed into history best forgotten.

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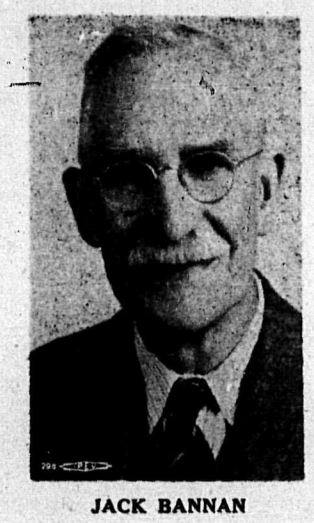
The small daughter watched her mother soberly while she marked her ballot at the polls, then remarked: "You voted for the man you loved best, didn't you, Mother?"

"Gracious, child!" exclaimed the mother. "Why did you ask that?"

"Because you put a kiss by his name."



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Statistical Proof

"At the bottom of the depression in 1932, farmers 'net income' totalled $1.8 billion, workers' wages $30 billion, and business reported a total loss of $3.4 billion.

"In 1948, net farm income was $18 billion, workers' wages totalled $134 billion, and business profits $19.7 billion.

"In short, business men lose when farmers and workers are impoverished and prosper with farmers and workers. Too many business men still talk and act as though they do not know that simple truth."—"Labor", Washington, July 23.

The average speed of the bowling ball travelling down the alley is about 30 miles an hour.

A.F.L. Plans Pushed For "Label Week"

"I urge every branch of the American Federation of Labor and Women's Auxiliaries to observe Union Label Week, September 3rd through the 10th," said I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department, which sponsors that period which has been approved by the American Federation of Labor as a week set aside for publicizing of Union Labels, Shop Cards, and Union Buttons. "Here is an opportunity," he declared, "to initiate a drive for union products and union services that is geared to our all-time pattern of Union Label activities. Let's celebrate this week, over Labor Sunday and Labor Day, by a genuine old-fashioned revival spirit. Let's devote the whole week to our great cause and prove to consumers that the Union Label guarantees the highest quality and best craftsmanship in merchandise and also that the Shop Card and Union Button assure the greatest proficiency in services.

"The general purpose of Union Label Week is to create a better understanding of what the American Federation of Labor has done to build America and what its future program will mean for all citizens," he added, "and by an educational drive during the 8-day period greater good will can be established with the public. Governors of states and mayors of numerous cities have already issued proclamations. Business and professional men should be invited to participate in making Union Label Week an outstanding event in every city and community."

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Soviet System of Mind Control

Written for the Workers Education Bureau of America

By GEORGE S. COUNTS
Teachers College, Columbia Univ.

THE PARTY OF LENIN AND STALIN

Since the October Revolution of 1917 the Russian Bolsheviks have developed the most comprehensive and far-reaching slstem of mind control known to history. They have been able to surpass earlier despotisms in this respect because they have had at their disposal all of the agencies for the molding of the mind that modern science and technology have created. They co-ordinate and emplop these agencies—the school, the press, the radio, and the moving picture, the automobile, the airplane, and the machine gun, science, literature, and art—with utter ruthlessness and singleness of purpose.

The key to the understanding of this system of mind control is the All-Union Communist Party, or the Party of Lenin and Stalin, with its six million members, its Central Committee of seventy-two, its Politburo of fourteen, and its complex and far-flung apparatus. Here also is the real key to that "understanding" of the Soviet Union which so many people are asking for today. In fact the Party, and not the government, is the Soviet state.

Organized as Political Army

The Party of Lenin and Stalin of course is not a political party at all in the sense in which the term is used in democratic states. It rules neither on the authority nor with the consent of the people. Like its predecessor, the empire, it can be dislodged only by violent revolution. In general structure and mode of operation it is a kind of political army. Following with amazing precision the plan for a revolutionary organization outlined by Paul Pastel, a Russian revolutionist of the early nineteenth century, it has three levels or circles of membership: it has its common soldiers, its commissioned and non-commissioned officers, its high command. The duty of the soldiers and officers is to carry out the orders of the high command. The latter consists of the fourteen members of the Politburo and the seventy-two members of the Central Committee.

In Lenin's time the operation of the Party was supposed to proceed under the principle of "democratic centralism." According to this principle all policies would be fully discussed by the rank and file in the thousands of cells which constitute the base of the organization. Thereafter delegates would be chosen presumably to represent the members at regularly called Party congresses and the policies adopted would be binding on the entire membership. Under Stalin this entire process has been abandoned, and even reversed. The last congress convened in the spring of 1939. And if another congress should be called in the near future, as promised, one may be certain that every delegate will be carefully picked by the leadership and will support without qualification the basic policies of Stalin and the Politburo.

Public Discussion Barred

Under this system of control there can be no public discussion of grand policy, either foreign or domestic. Such policy is discussed and formulated by the Party high command, and is then commonly given to the world in the form of a resolution by the Central Committee. It is thereafter the function of the other members of this political army to carry the policy to the people, to explain and argue, to persuade and cajole, to secure the adoption of resolutions of approval, and to prevent the emergence of any kind of organized opposition. All branches of the cultural apparatus are made to serve the same purpose. The Soviet citizen reads and listens in vain for the slightest criticism of any policy adopted by the central organs of the Party.

This monolithic system of mind control will be laid bare in the materials to be presented in subsequent articles.

"What are you doing?" demanded the foreman of a construction gang sternly of an alleged worker.

"Nothing," was the reply.

"Well, there is no use both of us doing the same thing. You get busy and do something."

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Charitable Firms' Right To Escape Unemploym't Insurance Questioned

Certain so-called "charitable organizations do not pay unemployment insurance for their employees, delegates to the Vancouver T. & L. Council were informed.

Delegate Ham Irving, of Laundry Workers, said that an employee had submitted her unemployment book to have stamps placed in it. Her employers, the "Monastery" laundry, which it is claimed is a charity organization, does not come under the unemployment insurance provisions.

The danger of the situation is, said Bro. Irving, that a person may be employed for two or more years and then have no unemployment credits.

He felt that firms doing commercial laundry work which is actually in competition with other union laundries should be required to pay unemployment insurance.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN A UNION?

(Plain questions demanding plain answers)

1. What do you, as a worker, want most of all?

You want a steady job that pays a living wage.

You want a decent livelihood for yourself and family.

You want your fair share in the ever increasing standard of living.

2. How can you, as a worker, get these things?

You cannot get them alone. If your job is insecure and your wages are low, your employer can tell you: "Take it or leave it."

But if you join with other workers who have the same problems, your employer has to listen.

A union will persuade him to listen.

3. What is the first thing a union does?

First, the union gets the employer to sign an agreement setting the standards for wages, hours of work and other conditions of employment.

4. What else does a union do?

A union continually improves wages and conditions. Agreements are usually signed up for a year or two. Every time the contract comes up for renewal, the union tries to get higher wages and standards.

A union provides a recognized spokesman to adjust grievances that arise on the job. The union speaks for the worker. Without union representation, the worker is at a disadvantage in getting a fair settlement of his grievances.

A union helps to assure your future by protecting you from unjust discharge. It gets you rights in the event of layoffs.

Laws to protect health and safety on the job.

Laws to protect children from being exploited at child labor.

Laws to protect consumers from harmful foods and shoddy goods.

Laws to get unemployment compensation for workers who lose their jobs.

Laws for old age benefits, social security and general betterment of the condition of workers and the community.

5. Do you have to join a union?

No. But you don't have to vote in elections, either.

However, if you are a good citizen, you make it your business to vote.

And if you want to better your standard of living . . .

If you want your fair share of the wealth you are helping to create together with other workers . . . Then you must do your part by joining the union.

You will not want to stay outside while other workers organize and fight for benefits from which you also gain.

A worker who is honest with himself does not want to be a "free rider" on the "Union Train."

6. What should you put into the Union?

A union is what the members make it.

When you join, you should attend meetings and express your views.

Union is a domestic organization.

You should take an active part in its affairs, to make it even more effective than you find it in serving your needs and the needs of your fellow workers.

7. Why pay dues to the Union?

Because the Union needs money to operate.

The union must have officers or business agents who will spend their full time on union work—representing the members, settling grievances, drawing up contracts to better wages and conditions.

There is no friend like the "friend in need." The Union is the worker's friend when he needs action.

Don't Forget! We've Got a Date! Union Label Week, Sept. 3-10.

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"Miss Labor"

MISS LABOR, BEAUTY SHOW CONTESTANT

MISS JEAN ROSS, who was chosen the 1950 Lady of the Lake at last week's regatta, will leave this weekend for Vancouver, where she will represent Kelowna in the Pacific National Exhibition Beauty Contest—August 25 to September 5.

The charming and lovely contestant will be the guest of Famous Players Corporation and will be chaperoned to the Coast by Mrs. Will Harper, wife of the local theatre manager. Miss Ross will have all her expenses paid to compete with beautiful contestants from all over B. C. for the title of "Miss P.N.E. of 1949."

The beauty contest will be one of the highlights of the exhibition and the winner will be given a four-day holiday in Hollywood with all expenses paid, plus a $1,000 scholarship in which to further her career. The winner will be given a year to decide how and where she will utilize the scholarship. If no decision is reached within twelve months, she may take $500 in cash as her prize.

Miss Ross first won a beauty contest sponsored by the Okanagan District Trades and Labor Council. Representing the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, she was the victor after four of the contestants had been recalled to the stage by an impartial committee.

The 17-year-old Kelowna girl was then entered as "Miss Labor" in the Lady of the Lake pageant and was chosen to head next year's regatta over twenty-three other contestants.

The Okanagan District Trades and Labor Council staged the beauty contest in an endeavor to stimulate a greater participation by organized labor in activities and life of the community generally.

Put Civic Employees Under I.C.A. Act, Urges Victoria T.U.

Victoria Trades and Iabor Council has forwarded a resolution to the 64th Annual TLC Convention, urging that the Congress support legislation to compel employers to bring their employees under the ICA Act.

Some municipal employers, the Victoria resolution declares, feel that the act does not apply to their civic employees. The City of Victoria on the advice of its solicitor has denied to Victoria municipal employees the benefits of the Act.

The delegates to the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council endorsed the resolution.

Alsbury Elected Convention Delegate

In the election for delegate to represent the Vancouver T. & L. Council at the 64th Annual TLC Convention which opens on September 15, Tom Alsbury, teachers' delegate, was successful over Bro. Bratten, Converters' Union.

President Percy Bengough, and the Secretary, R. K. Gervin, had been previously named as two of the three delegates the council is entitled to name.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Teacher: "Give me, for any one year, the number of tons of coal shipped out of the United States."

Quiz Kid: "1492. None."

Father: "Say, it's 2 o'clock Do you think you can stay all night?"

Suitor: "I'll have to telephone home first."

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How To Make a Million . . . and Break Unions

A millionaire at 35, the boss of the Cory Coffee Brewing Co. has a simple philosophy: "I enjoy life . . . I have a lot of fun. When I get tired of work now I leave it for a bit. I take two weeks' vacation—four or five times a year."

The employer speaking is James W. Alsdorf in an interview with the Chicago Sun-Times, which is running a series on the exploits and success stories of local businessmen.

Alsdorf's formula for success is that salesmanship is four-fifths of the job, production only one-fifth. Another of his theories: "People don't buy what they need, they buy what they want. The key is in convincing them that they want what you've got to sell." Alsdorf's success story sounds wonderful, but the interview leaves out a few facts, like the following:

He and his $12 million company made their dough by paying such wages as 74c and 79c an hour, as late as the end of 1947. In 1946 the company made a profit of $1,146,785 or $4,587.14 for each of its 250 employees. The employees, taken all together, made a lot less than that.

Further, in October and November 1947, instead of negotiating a new contract with Local 1150, United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers, CIO, the company told the union to get out. There was a strike with injunctions, a mass demonstration of 1,500 workers (later ruled illegal by the Taft-Hartley NLDB), mass arrests. There were sentences of 90 days, appealed and overruled—a year after the strike was over.

Finally, there was a Taft-Hartley election in which strikebreakers and a rival union were allowed to vote while strikers' ballots were thrown out.

One of those who aided in the fight wrote to the Sun-Times after the Alsdorf "success" story appeared and recalled some of these facts. "This is Alsdorf's formula for success," she said:

"(1) Pay as low wages as possible; (2) if the workers object, bring in the police, bust their organization; (3) toss the union members and their leaders in jail; (4) hire scabs; (5) get the IBEW to help you to break the workers' bona fide union."

Finally, she wrote: "That's not the kind of success we want. We don't want to ride on the back of our fellow humans — not even to make a million dollars!"—Federated Press.

Vacations With Pay In Canada

Almost every worker employed in manufacturing in Canada now receives an annual paid vacation, the Minister of Labor stated recently.

The Minister said that this had been revealed by a study prepared in the Research and Statistics Branch of the Department of Labor, which is published this week in the Labor Gazette.

This was the first study of its kind in Canada, and was based on a survey made in October, 1947, of 4,339 establishments employing almost 600,000 manufacturing workers, said Mr. Mitchell.

According to the study, the commonest form of vacation is one week after a year of service. Two-thirds of the workers are also eligible for a second week's holiday, usually after five years' service. Vacations of three weeks are available to about 20 per cent of the workers in manufacturing, usually after 20 or 25 years' service.

Six of the ten provinces require paid vacations by law; of these Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia require one week after a year of service. Alberta requires one week after a year's employment, and two weeks after two years. Saskatchewan legislation provides for two weeks after a year of service.

The survey shows that at least 98 per cent of the workers in manufacturing receive annual paid vacations. The workers in manufacturing getting no paid vacation are usually employed in industries of a seasonal nature, such as fruit and vegetable canning or in planing and sawmills where casual labor is often employed. There is, however, considerable variation in the kind of vacation given, and in the length of service required for the worker to qualify for paid vacations of diffehent lengths.

Mr. Mitchell said that the survey found that 90 per cent of the workers received a week's paid vacation after a year or less of service; and eight per cent were eligible for an initial vacation of two weeks, usually after a year of service.

Nearly 30 per cent of the total number of workers were in establishments in which the vacation did not exceed one week, regardless of the length of service.—Halifax Citizen.

Then and Now

I have seen labor advance during my own lifetime. There is no comparison between conditions now and the conditions that prevailed when I joined organized labor as a young fellow fifty-five years ago. The conditions of today, so much better than those of the past, have been brought about by organized labor and no one else.

It was organized labor that initiated the legislation for free schools. Every other law that is on the statute books in the interests of the working people was placed there by organized labor. These laws were initiated in the halls of labor. It was the justice of the cause and the hard work of the members of organized labor that brought about the enactment of these laws.

I remember the agitation for compulsory school education. We fought for it in the labor unions. We old fellows—we weren't so old in those days—thought then that if our children could get the same schooling as the other fellow's, it wouldn't be long until we would take over most of the offices in the country and get laws in the interest of the workers.

But talk to today's average working man. Ask him how all those beneficial laws happened to pass. He does not know. He doesn't know of all the hard work and all the sacrifices that were made by men before him in order to bring about those laws.

The young fellows in our movement have to get on the job. If they and all the rest of us get on the job and do the job, those who still remain of those who voted to pass anti-labor laws in Congress and the Legislatures can be put out of office and men who are genuine friends of labor put in their places.—Charles W. Wilkerson, American Federationist.

Washington Post Hits Slum Conditions in Nation's Capital

The Washington Post has printed on amazing story. The newapsper described slum conditions in the nation's capital, within half a mile of the capitol building itself.

For low-income families living in those places it's a constant fight against rats, insects and disease, the Post said. The roofs leak, walls are damp and crumbling, floors are about ready to cave in, windows and doors don't keep out the cold, let alone rats and mice. All have outdoor toilets. There are no lights.

Interested mainly in the exorbitant rents they collect through their agents, these landlords, most of whom haven't even seen the properties in years, merely shrugged when the Post's reporter questioned them about the conditions.

The landlords must have influence, for practically all of the houses have been condemned by the municipal authorities, some several times.

Their callous attitude was illustrated by the statement of one, "If people choose to live that way, what can you do about it?"

But it isn't a matter of choice, the Post pointed out. These families simply can't pay the rent for a decent house.

Years ago the first Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, appalled by these conditions, started a move to clean out the Washington slums. Legisclation was intoduced, but the landlords and real estate agents jumped in and blocked it. The success of their fight against all such moves is demonstrated by the 40,000 slum dwellings in the capital today.—Man. Commonwealth.

TOO REVOLUTIONARY

A businessman from one of the Latin American republics tells that he wrote a letter placing an order for an engine capable of a thousand revolutions a minute. The letter was intercepted by government agents, whereupon the businessman was had up before El Presidente, who said: "One revolution a day we can handle, but a thousand revolutions a minute —too much."

Little Boy, in woodshed: "Father, did grandpa spank you when you were a 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, Son."

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

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Union Label Corner

The Oldest Organized Cause of Labor

By ED. SMITH
Secretary, Union Label Council

The union label is the trade mark of trade unionism, the oldest organized cause recorded. It is the struggle of the workers for industrial democracy and economic freedom.

In early Rome, organized guilds were formed of tradesmen of many crafts. The Guilds from which our modern labor unions grew, were those of the ancient Saxons, four in England about the eighth century. Centuries later, in 1756, the Weavers, finding apprenticeship regulations and wage standards flouted by employers, carried on a strike and won it.

The union shopcard and service button idea was born in the old world but it gained new vigor on this side of the Atlantic. It is generally understood that the cigar makers were the sponsors of the earliest trade union label, but a similar device was used six years earlier in 1869 by the Carpenters' Eight Hour League of San Francisco, who furnished a stamp to all mills, to identify the eight-hour plan.

In 1886, the International Typographical Union adopted the union label, and the Allied Printing Trades Council was formed to include all branches of the industry using the label. In the same year labels were adopted by the United Garment Workers, the Coopers, and the Bakery and Confectionery Workers.

It was not until 1909 that the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor was organized. Since that time, the continued boosting of the union label has established the fact that it is one of the greatest assets or organized labor.

The laws in the 49 states of America assure the right of label organizations to register their labels for protection from counterfeit or unauthorized use. Over the years since the union label became known and popular, one union after another has, realizing its usefulness and power, supported the work of the Union Label Trades Department.

The Union Label Trades Council in Vancouver has a long record of service to the trade union movement in this province. Most unions are affiliated with it. Some are not. A 100% representation of unions on the council would greatly strengthen its efforts to serve workers and their families.

The Labor Day Holiday

By ED. SMITH

The guy who started this business of "Labor Day" was Pete McGuire. You have never heard of him? He was the fellow from New York who devoted his life to Labor, and became the first vice-president of the A.F. of L. Pete is the father of Labor Day. Away back in May, 1882, at a meeting of the Central Labor Union of New York he spoke of something close to his heart. As a result, "Labor Day" came into being to honor the toilers of the world. The first Monday in September was chosen to be celebrated as "Labor Day". The first was celebrated on September 5th, 1882. It was not until June 26, 1894, that the Congress of the United States made it, by law, a national holiday.

All workers should remember the sacrifices of the early pioneers like Pete McGuire, the ideals for which they fought, and the efforts they made to advance the cause of labor. The most effective way of honoring their memory is to cary on the fight for the things they stood for. This can easily be done by buying only union-made goods. Insist on the union label and union services. Patronize only those employers who co-operate with union labor.

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Ornburn Urges Labor to Gain Offensive; Points to AFL's Drive For Progress

By I. M. ORNBURN
Secretary-Treasurer, Union Label Trades Department

As trade unionists, let's get on the offensive! We should never let out enemies place us on the defensive. Officials and members of the American Federation of Labor have so much of which to be proud. Let's place our winning cards on the table. We should never allow labor's opposition to cripple us with vicious anti-union legislation or with poison anti-labor propaganda. All we have to do is to "sell" to the public the following facts: The American Federation of Labor has been the pioneer in our "American way of life"; our purchasing power forms the major portion of all consumer buying; union label goods are the best in both quality and workmanship; union services are the most efficient, and the benefits of the AFL's battle during the past 68 years for decent wages, hours and working conditions are now enjoyed by all the people of these United States and Canada.

We built the AFL movement by taking the offensive. Union Label Week, September 3-10, over Labor Day, furnishes a splendid opportunity to do the positive thing and start a drive for union label goods and union services.

Current wages, hours of toil and modern standards come so easy to new members of labor unions that these great benefits are not always fully appreciated by them. To change working conditions, pioneer labor leaders made great sacrifices. They were intimidated, threatened, jailed and sometimes shot down in the battle for our present-day labor standards. Many now living can recall when wages were only a dollar a day and men worked over 12 hours each day of the week. Today almost all organized workers receive more than a dollar for one hour's work and the 40-hour week is generally recognized in all industries.

At our Union Industries Shows, the dramatized realism of actually seeing union-crafted products made and witnessing unexcelled union services performed are most effective answers to anti-union publicity campaigns and foreign totalitarianism.

The Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, therefore, urges all members of international, national and federal unions, union label leagues and women's auxiliaries, to always demand the union label, shop card and union button. By so doing, we shall guarantee employment of our fellow trade unionists, maintain union wages and other labor standards, and make secure America's economic stability in a worried world.

Electrical Workers' Union Elects Officers

Local No. 213

Business Manager, George Gee. President, C. C. Moore. Vice-President, G. Tolhurst. Recording Secretary, W. C. Daley. Treasurer, A. C. Hill.

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TAKING NO CHANCES

After his 18th child had been born the father was very unhappy. He told his friends that if the stork were to knock at his door once more he was going to hang himself. Sure enough, the stork did knock again, and his friends came over to remind him of his promise to hang himself. So he got himself a rope and went out to the barn, while his friends stood around and waited.

In five minutes he came out of the barn with the rope in his hand.

"What's the matter? We thought you were going to hang yourself."

"Well, boys, I'll tell you. I had the rope around my neck and was just ready to jump, when all of a sudden it occurred to me that I might be hanging an innocent man."

A married fellow we know recently spent a quiet evening with friends, playing poker. When he got up to go home he was dismayed to see the sun shining brightly.

What would he tell his wife?

At last he hit upon an idea. He stepped to the phone, dialed his home number and shouted hoarsely:

"It's all right, darling, they let me go. Don't pay the ransom."

It is one of the beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another, without helping himself.

The bed has become a place of luxury for me. I would not exchange it for all the thrones in the world.

—Napoleon.

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WILLIAM PAGE
International Representative, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; member of Carpenters' Union, No. 452.

News of the Month

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

By GEO. R. BENGOUGH

LABOR DAY

Everybody in Canada and the United States celebrates Labor Day the first Monday in September. It is a day the old man takes the family for an outing; the last one before school reopens. The old bus gets polished up in the morning and away they go. Some folks go to the parks and the beaches, others think they have the horses all figured out, and it is to the races for them.

Some unions have a picnic on Labor Day and make a real celebration for everybody. Across Canada, Labor Day is celebrated in the manner that suits the individual worker and some centres will have a Labor Day parade for their union members.

Vancouver has not had a parade the last few years for the reason that the union members are more interested in their own activities. The lack of an official Labor Day parade is not to be construed that Organized Labor is satisfied with the progress made to date, but indicates rather than that the members have the freedom to do as they please in this Canada of ours.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America members in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, along with the rest of the Trade Unionists, will be enjoying the benefits of this holiday.

Labor Day was fought for and established as a holiday by such men as P. J. McGuire, an early secretary and founder of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, back in 1882.

There are some who would substitute May Day for Labor Day and cite the fact that the countries of Europe and parts of Asia all have May 1st now as the holiday for the working people.

We must say they have some very impressive celebrations, particularly in Russia, on May Day. They are, for the majority, dressed in uniforms and marching in military formations, a few battle tanks to lend weight and squadrons of planes overhead to add to the effect.

We may be kidding ourselves that our way is better, but the manner in which the workers of Canada celebrate Labor Day is more in keeping with their freedom as workers, more enjoyable, and at least is the choice of the working people, including ourselvse as members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

LOCAL No. 2802, VANCOUVER

The Shingle Weavers have arranged for another meeting with R. V. Stewart Research in order to make another try at arriving at a satisfactory agreement.

Our brothers south of the line are stepping up their drive to allow only shingles bearing union labels on the jobs. Brother Art Brown, President of the Washington-Oregon District Council of Shingle Weavers, sent us an encouraging letter the other day on the success they were having in stopping shingles without the union label being handled by the retail lumber yards.

The big objective with Local No. 2802 is the six-hour day for the Shingle Industry. There are some signs of having these hours established and once a start is made the other mills will soon fall in line. The Shingle Weavers No. 2802 are asking for a 15 cents per hour increase across the board, $16.00 daily guarantee for sawyers and $12.00 per day for the packers. Two weeks' paid vacation and all Statutory Holidays to be paid. They believe the time is now opportune for the establishment of a Pension Plan for all the employees in the shingle mills.

The boys over at the Acme Shingle Mill are planning on doing away with the Saturday meetings and have the meeting on a week night; some would even like to see the meetings held on Sunday night, the way they did a few years ago.

LOCAL No. 2345, VANCOUVER

The Shinglers and Roofers at their August 18th meeting were able to state that all their members were working. This is good news because the shinglers of Vancouver sure took a beating on their pay cheques last winter and spring.

So far the shingling contractors who have been awarded work on the Fraser View Housing Project are fair employers and signed up with Local 2346. The union has information that there are to be some houses with "built up" roofs at "Fraser View", and these will be watched very closely to see that only union men are employed on this particular type of roof.

Last meeting the Shinglers decided to make use of the office facilities in Room 101 and in the future all executive meetings will be held there on the first Thursday of each month.

Word was received that the Shinglers on the Barnett Road housing project were still non-union men. This problem will come before the Building Trades Council for their co-operation in having these men join up with No. 2346.

Hingley Roofing has the contract at the Kerrisdale Arena and only members of the Shinglers' Union are to be employed on this job.

Secretary G. Gildermiester read a letter from a shingler who had 4% of his earnings deducted to help the boss operate his office and pay the Workmen's Compensation Board. It is this sort of thing that the unorganized shinglers are up against and show the need for maintaining a strong union.

LOCAL No. 2534 NEW WESTMINSTER

The regular meeting on Friday, August 12th, was a real good meeting and the business attended to in a fine manner. Brother Walter Fedak, the president, might have been a few minutes late getting started but he soon made up for lost time.

Local No. 2534, Furniture, Fixtures, Sash and Door, made a supplementary agreement with Shaw Bros., that from August 15th the Company pays for the full Rest Periods. These Rest Periods are for 10 minutes in the forenoon and afternoon. The union label has been applied for with West-Min Woodcraft and it is expected it will be granted at an early date. This will help to identify the products of West-Min Woodcraft and tend to promote the United Brotherhood of Carpenters organization. The label also assures the buyer that fair wages and conditions are maintained at this establishment.

Local No. 2534 is now affiliated with the Vancouver, New Westminster Building Trades Council and their delegates, Art Burrus and Ken Johnson, are in attendance at every meeting.

The Columbia Sash and Door is still unorganized and paying rates below our established agreements. Building Trades Unions take note.

The Vocational Training School at Vancouver is busy lining up a course for apprentices in Bench and Joinery work. This course will include practical subjects on present day practice in the Sash, Door and Millwork shops of British Columbia. This course should prove a boon to the industry and do more to elevate the trade than anything that has been advanced for many years. Local No. 2534 members will be following this particular course with keen interest.

RESILIENT SECTION, No. 1541, VANCOUVER

Resilient Floorlayers Section, since our last report, have entered into an agreement with Custom Built Floors, 1269 Granville Street.

Some difficulty is being experienced with Burritt Bros. over the Union Security Clause in the agreement concerning the shop men. It is hoped that an early settlement can be arrived at as the Resilient men have always looked upon Burritt Bros. as a fair firm.

President Harry Neville tnd a committee of the Local have made a study of the Apprenticship Act since the last meeting. They are making practical proposals to the September 7th meeting concerning: apprenticeship rates, ratio of apprentices, etc., which should be a basis for establishing an apprenticeship clause for their agreement.

LOCAL 2213, MISSION CITY

Carpenters in Mission City are feeling the effects of jobs being completed and very few building permits taken out for the past month. Some of the members report they have not worked for some two weeks.

Brother Elmer Hodson is now president of Local 2213. He is a former member of Local 452, Vancouver. The new president conducts the meetings in a fine manner and does a good job of encouraging the members to participate in the discussions.

Last month we mentioned the progress that had been made towards starting a Trades Class both at Mission City and Abbotsford by Local No. 2213. The following names are of the brothers signed up for these classes, starting September 15th in Mission City.

Pete A. Gesbrecht, W. J. Henderson, Len Collin, E. H. Wren, J. Anutooshkin, H. D. Peters, D. J. Sewell, L. W. Creelman, John Popove, Roy Waite.

Apprentices—Norman Mierau, Percy Priebe, Wilmot Beison, Bertram A. McConachie, M. Miller.

Those signed up for the Abbotsford class are Brothers:

Roy Priebe, R. J. Clark, N. E. Priebe, F. J. Lay, Gus G. Freund, Adam J. Duitcher, C. R. Joiner, John Vlvild, John Block, Pete Block, Jake Block, Wm. Priebe.

Business Agent Wm. Deckard is looking forward to seeing the classes start this September and is pleased with the way the brothers have cooperated with him to make this possible.

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NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE

This is Electrical Workers' No. 213 new Executive Board, a combination of mature experience and youthful drive and vigor. Standing, left to right, are Ted Hammersmark, Vern Shuttleworth, Art O'Keefe, Geo. Tolhurst (vice-pres.). Front row, same order: George Gee, Business Manager; Bill Daley, Secretary; Claude Hill, Treasurer; Cliff Moore, President. Absent: Jack McSorley and Al McDairmid.—*Live Wire.*

Report of Organization Work, British Columbia

Since last Labor Day considerable progress in organizational work has been made throughout the Okanagan Valley, the Kootenays and other sections of British Columbia. In organizing new groups I find that the I.C.A. Act has been of great assistance. As the workers become educated to the fact that there is legislation to protect them against discrimination by the employer for joining a trade union, their fear is eliminated to a large extent.

The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has continued its monthly grant to the Okanagan District Trades and Labor Council. This has allowed the Council, jointly with the Congress, to keep a full time organizer in the Okanagan Valley. Bro. Wm. Mahoney is filling this most important post and he is rapidly gaining the respect of both employers and employees throughout the district.

Civic and Hospital Employees

During the past year we have concentrated to some extent on the organizing of Civic Employees and Hospital Employees. On behalf of the Civic Employees we now have signed agreements in Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna, Penticton, Trail and Nelson. Several others are under way. Hospital employee agreements are signed in Vernon, Kelowna, Nelson and Trail. Certification has been applied for in Penticton and Kamloops. These are all new federal charters.

Within the year I have been asked for, and have given, assistance to a number of International Unions. We have taken in new groups and have increased membership in others. International Organizers have also been very active in bringing the benefits of organization to those within their jurisdiction who had been previously unorganized, particularly the Teamsters, Machinists, Bakery Workers and of course the Building Trades Unions generally.

Let me at this time congratulate all our A.F. of L. and T.L.C. Unions on the splendid work done during the year. Let us keep on to the end that all workers may see the light and come in with us so that there will be only one unified labor movement in Canada.

W. D. WILSON, Organizer,
American Federation of Labor

Bevis Elected to T. & L. C. Executive

Sandy Bevis, president of the ITU **Local 226, was** elected to fill the vacancy on the Executive caused by the resignation of Sam Shearer. Brother Shearer was forced to resign owing to the withdrawal of his union from the council.

Bro. Bevis won by a clear majority over Bros. Barton and King. He will be the Chairman of the Legislative Committee until the end of the present term in December.

Railway Carmen Still Affiliated with T. L. C.

There are still two locals of the Railway Carmen's Union affiliated with the Vancouver Trades & Labor Council, announced Secretary Gervin in response to inquiries which have been made.

Some confusion has arisen as a result of the action of one local of that Union, Local 58, which for the time being has disaffiliated. This has not affected the standing or affiliation of the other two locals referred to above which still seats delegates on the council.

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Department of Labour

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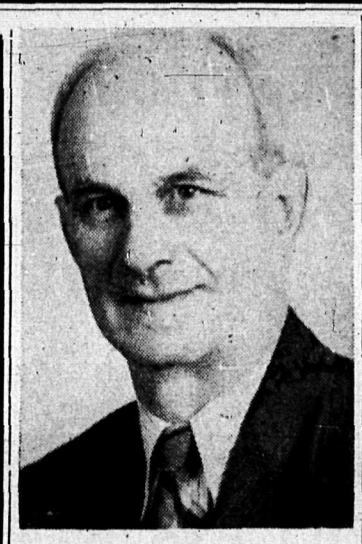

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Libraries For the People

Library Association Wants T. U. Support

Organized labor is well known for its constant support of public education, the public library. The British Columbia Library Association has shown its interest in labor problems by its affiliation with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and with the local Trades and Labor Councils in Vancouver and Victoria, as well as in other ways. It will therefore be of some interest to readers of the "Labor Statesman" if we strike a trial balance of library objectives and attainments at the present moment.

Toward the close of the second world war a Joint Committee of the Public Library Commission and the B. C. Library Association prepared a report known os the "Programme for Library Development in British Columbia," setting out library objectives for the post-war period. This is still regarded as the librarians' "Magna Carta."

Principal amongst objectives therein set out, may be listed: Improved library service in Provincial institutions, appointment of a Provincial Director of School Libraries, establishment of a library school in the University of British Columbia, improved library service in the rural areas of the Province, and statutory grants for public libraries.

Some progress has been made in institutional library service. The library of the Mental Hospital at Essondale is now administered by a fully qualified librarian, and the T.B. hospitals have likewise benefited from attention by trained personnel. Libraries at Oakalla have steadily improved since they came under the direction of the Public Library Commission, and only recently the Attorney-General appointed a trained librarian, on full time, to administer library service in his department. There is still urgent need of betterment in other institutions, and the up a division of the Public Library Commission to supervise library service in the Provincial institutions generally.

Libraries in many of the schools, large and small, urban and rural, leave much to be desired. Recommendations have been made to the Department of Education for the appointment of a Director of School Libraries to assist school librarians and teachers in the selection and administration of their libraries and to encourage local authorities to give due financial support to this essential phase of school activities. The plan has worked successfully elsewhere and there is hope of more general support of the idea in British Columbia.

British Columbia students who wish to take up studies in the library profession must now go to library schools in eastern Canada or in the United States. This has serious disadvantages. In the first place it works a financial hardship on the student, often deterring him from entering the library profession. Those who do leave British Columbia to attend these schools are often induced to accept positions outside the province. In 1949 twenty-five per cent of the graduates of an eastern Canadian school accepted positions in libraries south of the border. Librarians of good calibre are needed in British Columbia, and until public demand is aroused for a school in the University of British Columbia, we shall continue to lose good material that is discouraged from entering the profession, as well as "finished material" that is snapped up by libraries outside the province.

There has been definite improvement in public library service in certain rural areas of the province, particularly in the Peace River Distrist where a branch of the Public Library Commission was set up in 1946. The North-Central District operations of the Commission have also been much improved by the construction of a new administration building at Prince George, and by expansion of co-operative schemes amongst school libraries and public library associations. The union libraries in the Fraser Valley, the Okanagan, and Vancouver Island continue to be hampered by lack of adequate funds. Inauguration of union library organization in the Kootenays likewise is hampered by the lack of necessary financial assistance in the way of Provincial Government grants. This leads up to the most important problem facing the public libraries of British Columbia today.

The British Columbia Library Association and the Public Library Commission take the position that public libraries, as essential public educational institutions, are entitled to statutory government grants for the same reason that the Provincial Government carries a substantial proportion of the cost of public schools. The central feature of the "Programme for Library Development" is indeed its recommendation of government grants on a sliding scale proportionate to funds contributed by the local authority. In the opinion of librarians and of many official and unofficial public bodies, the argument for statutory government grants for public libraries is irrefutable. The principle has long been accepted by other Canadian provinces, in some of which the Provincial Government puts up better than dollar for dollar of the local contribution. One province pays practically the whole library bill. The principle was indeed long ago adopted by British Columbia, but the Public Libraries Act of 1919 has been implemented in this respect only by exceedingly small appropriations, from which meagre grants have been made principally to smaller outlying communities. Vancouver Public Library, atempting to serve well on to half the population of British Columbia, does not receive one dollar from the Provincial Government specifically for this form of public education.

Librarians will continue to work unremittingly for the attainment of this objective, which is of paramount and indeed basic importance to the whole growth of public libraries. A determined effort is being made this year. Labor should be interested. Everybody should do something about it.

The Lighter Side

Pat and Mike were on scout duty overseas. They were concealed in a cow's hide pretending to graze over toward the enemy position. Pat was in the front legs and Mike in the hind legs. All went well until Pat received a prod from his buddy.

"Come on, let's get out of here," hissed Mike.

"What's the matter?" inquired Pat.

"There's a German coming," said Mike.

"That's all right; just be quiet," replied Pat.

"It might be all right for you," said Mike, "but that German's got a milk pail."

A woman was bemoaning the fact that her husband had left her for the sixth time.

"Never mind," sympathized her neighbor, "he'll come back again."

"Not this time," she sobbed. "He's taken his golf clubs."

A Scot was engaged in an argument with a conductor as to whether the fare was 25 cents or 30 cents. Finally the disgusted conductor picked upj the Scot's suitcase and tossed it off the train just as they passed over a bridge.

"Mon." screamed the Scot. "It's not enough to try to overcharge me; now you try to drown my son."

Laboriously, the Blue Streak train of the N.A.R. chugged along its curving route. The coaches were old-timers and sultrily hot, the seats hard and straight-backed.

One of the passengers irritated by general discomfort and the frequent and extended stops, complained to the conductor.

"It seems to me," he concluded, "that for a train so sadly lacking in everything, your fare is outrageous."

"Yes, sir," the conductor replied sympathetically, "it's high if you figure it by the mile."

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As Others See Us

(The following paragraphs are taken from the columns of the Winnipeg Tribune's "Looking at Labor" by Ben Lepkin. They are reproduced here to let our readers see what an outside observer thinks about the anti-discrimination work being carried on by the labor movement. Ed.)

"Canada's two major congresses and the unions throughout the country affiliated with them are perhaps doing more to fight racial discrimination in the Dominion than any other organized groups.

"Labor's anti-discrimination work is being carried on without fanfare, and even too reticently; far too little of what labor is doing is generally known. And it should be known because labor's awareness of this grave social problem and its efforts to combat it are a forceful demonstration of the fact that with maturity Canada's unions have acquired a broader sense of their civic responsibilities.

"Canadian unions have, of course, always been opposed to racial prejudices since the premises of trade unionism posit a freedom of association unhindered by difference of color or creed. But this opposition has until recently been vague and diffused, largely vocal and not particularly articulate, at that.

"Analysing this reaction, labor men think it was mainly due to the different nature of discrimination practised in Canada. Ours is a subtle kind, indirect and often devious, and hard to fight.

"A driving force was required to plan and co-ordinate the attack against intolerance, and the impetus for it came only in recent years. It has been supplied by the Jewish Labor Committee, a group composed of unions with large Jewish memberships.

"This committee approached the unions and won their support in developing in the ranks of organized labor in Canada an awareness of the dangers of racial discrimination, and prejudice towards minorities in general. In spite of its name, the committee has laid no particular stress on anti-Semitism, but has attacked intolerance of every kind.

"Gradually the unions took over a larger part of this work, and today both major congresses are devoting much of their time and energy to fight discrimination, with the Jewish Labor Committee content to stay in the background as a co-relating and advisory body.

"Both Congresses now have standing committees against racial intolerance. That of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is headed by Claude Jodoin of Montreal, and the Canadian Congress of Labor's Committee is headed by R. J. Lamoureux, also of Montreal. Three local committees are functioning in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg, working with the local councils of the congresses and, in Winnipeg, with the One Big Union also.

"Discrimination against minorities is widespread in Canada. There is discrimination in employment, with entire industries refusing to hire Jews, Catholics or Negroes. There is discrimination in the rental and sale of property. Restaurants bar Negroes. Clubs and sports organizations bar Jews and Catholics.

"It is against these forms of intolerance that the Jewish Labor Committee and the labor groups are carrying on grass-roots education campaigns in the union movement (for there is racial discrimination in unions, too) and on the outside. On the local levels, these groups are pressing for legislation safeguarding civil rights and for city ordinances outlawing restrictive practices. On the national scale, they are asking for more intensive governmental activity in fostering principles of good citizenship, as well as a bill of rights.

"This year, for the first time, both congresses included sections on discrimination in the briefs on proposed legislation which they annually present to the Dominion government.

"These campaigns are proving effective. At least, they have brought the problem to the attention of the public. And they have developed a tendency in different groups to work together to fight discrimination. The labor unions have made a fair beginning towards restricting discrimination in Canada, if not wiping it out entirely."—Canadian Labor Reports.

A candidate for the police force was being verbally examined. "If you were by yourself in a police car, and were being pursued by a desperate band of criminals in another car doing forty miles an hour on a lonely road, what would you do?"

"Fifty," promptly replied the candidate.

How far a fisherman will stretch the truth depends on the length of his arms.

He: "Will you marry me?"
She: "No, Gene, but I'll always admire your good taste."

When a woman driver puts her hand out, remarked a New York traffic cop, you can be sure of one thing —the window is open.

LABOR DAY MESSAGE
By SECRETARY R. K. GERVIN

Some fifty-five years ago, after persitent struggle on the part of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the first Monday in September was made a statutory holiday to be known as Labor Day. Throughout Canada labor celebrates on this day, and no doubt will continue to celebrate in spite of the attempt of certain elements within the movement to change the date to coincide with interests outside our country.

For several years in this district, Labor Day was celebrated by a monster picnic and sports. This was most satisfactory to the workers, and provided a real holiday with healthy entertainment for union men, their wives and children as well as their friends, and, to top it all, the unions paid for it, supplying refreshments for the kids. We drew a big crowd, something like four thousands, to our picnc in those days, but when the Exhibition reopened following the second world war, Labor very generously ceased holding its annual picnic and sports on its own holiday because it was felt the picnic might conflict with the Exhibition, which should be of interest to all citizens. In giving up our holiday to the Exhibition, Labor felt, of course, that room should be made for special recognition to Labor on the first Monday in September. With this in mind Birt Showler and the writer visited the Manager, putting forward our proposal. The Manager didn't see where there was room for Labor on the grounds during the time the fair was on, so we got absolutely nowhere, and as far as the Exhibition Board is concerned have been getting nowhere ever since. The result is that we have ended up out of the Exhibition and our sports day too.

It is my intention next year, unless satisfactory arrangements are made for recognition of Labor at the Exhibition on the first Monday in September, to strongly recommend that Labor take its own course in celebrating its holiday, even should it cost the Exhibition a few thousand patrons. Organized labor should not be expected to make a sacrifice for the P.N.E. and then be ignored by that same body.

During the past year Labor has made excellent progress in British Columbia. New unions are being formed, while hundreds of members are coming into the unions of long standing in the district.

Labor legislation in the province is not all that it should be. The Hospitalization Act needs amendments, particularly to remove the hardship presently placed on pensioners. The Workmen's Compensation Act should again be reviewed as well as the Industrial, Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

Much has been said about the Labor Relations Board who are presently administering the I. C. A. Act. It is natural that a union that loses a certification to another will find fault with the Labor Relations Board and suggest that the Board has no authority under the Act to do certain things. However, considering the hundreds of certifications that pass through the Labor Relations Board where Unions are quite satisfied, I feel that there is little cause for complaint against the Labor Relations Board. In fact, I do think that the Board on the whole have done an excellent job in the province over the months since their appointment. In my opinion, most of the criticism aimed at the Board is purely political and intended for the Coalition Government.

With the general growth of the Trade Unions in British Columbia comes a larger and better Trades and Labor Council. I feel, however, that some representatives of Labor on the Council, who attend only an odd meeting when the spirit moves them, are not doing their duty to the people they represent. It is true that sometimes the meetings of the Council become boring, but that is the fault, perhaps, of the delegates who do not attend more than those who are always present. If the meetings of the Council are not run as the delegates would like, absenting themselves from the meetings is not the answer to that problem. It is all the more reason why they should appear at the meetings and see that the meetings are run to their satisfaction. They cannot always say that the officers are not satisfying them, if they do not appear and make their desires known.

On the whole, the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council are making excellent progress. I am confident that we will continue to grow and our members to better their standard of living. I hope that all representatives of Labor, particularly those in the Trades and Labor Council, will take their responsibilities seriously and attend all meetings and see that the people they represent obtain a full and fair hearing.

We hear of an old down-state Missourian, now in his nineties. Someone was taken to call on him, and said: "Well, you certainly have seen many changes in your life."

"Yes," he replied, "and I've been again 'em all."—Kansas City Star.

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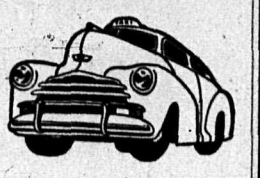

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Outstanding Job Done For Hospital Employees

By W. M. BLACK

At the last regular meeting of Local No. 180 the membership reviewed a concise report of the Business Agent, W. M. Black. In October, 1944, this organization, known then as The Vancouver Hospital Employees' Federal Union, Local 180, received its charter but the organizational work which has been carried on has forced them to drop "Vancouver" from their title and use "Hospital Employees' Federal Union, Local No. 180." Now included in the organization are the Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminster; Chilliwack General Hospital, Chilliwack, B.C.; North Vancouver General Hospital, North Vancouver; West Coast Hospital, Port Albenri; King's Daughters' Hospital, Duncan, B. C.

When this local first received its charter it had, roughly, a membership of 250; today there are well over 1,000 members.

The outstanding accomplishments of the organization are as follows:

1. Standardizing the hours of work at 44 hours.
2. Increasing the salaries at the Vancouver General Hospital since 1929 by 96%.
3. Bringing the membership under the Municipal Superannuation Act, thereby granting them pensions.

In all contracts they either have Union Shops or Union Maintenance Clauses.

Since organizing the Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminster, in January, 1948, a $42.00 per month increase was obtained. A contract has been completed for the North Vancouver General Hospital which gives $25.00 per month increase. Chilliwack General Hospital were given a 20% increase from January 1st to July 1st, 1949, with the union re-entering negotiations for the balance of the year. The King's Daughters' Hospital, Duncan, B. C., won $20.00 across the board plus one free meal per day. All contracts include two weeks' holidays with pay and either ten or eleven Statutory Holidays.

Hospitals have always been known as a poorly paid, depressed industry. This has made our job doubly difficult. As an example, in 1936 the gross payroll at the Vancouver General Hospital was $924,462.10 as against the gross payroll in 1948 of $2,816,338.00, a net increase over the years of $1,891,875.90. This does not include the negotiated cost of living bonus, plus salary adjustments for 1949. These figures prove that our job was to lift hospital employees out of the depressed class and at the same time keep abreast of the rising cost of living. In this we have been reasonably successful, when you consider that in wage negotiations we are in competition with other depressed industries which have anything but one hundred per cent organization, such as: restaurants, the large buildings in the city, other hospitals and laundries. Their conditions are known and very carefully watched by a Personnel Department. That is the reason why such departments are established.

The establishment of the Insurance Commission and the payment of actual operating costs, has meant that administrations now tend to use obsolete equipment, with little or no replacements. They are streamlining their operations, mimicking to some degree the assembly line methods of production used in industry; in other words, speeding up employment and all hospitals is up and we predict this adding more work to already overburdened employees. Bed occupancy at will remain constant from now on. We must see that adequate staff is provided to take care of the increased work.

Overworked and dissatisfied employees can never give the general public the service to which they are entitled. Hospitals cannot be operated at the expense of the employees. They never have been profit making institutions and never will be; but have depended on subscriptions and government subsidies. There has been a grave lack of adequate employee training programs. The tendency has been to throw anyone into a job and do the work willy-nilly. Hospitals are important institutions and worthy of more mature consideration. We should insist on proper training programs, fitting employees to do their jobs well, giving the public good service and receiving in return fair remuneration. It would pay us well to watch hospitalization very closely.

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Amalgamated Meat Cutters Launch Drive

The A.F. of L. Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, boasting a membership of 200,000, has returned to Canada. Plans to organize every unorganized worker coming under the jurisdiction of the Amalgamated are well under way. Jurisdiction of the Amalgamated is as follows:

"All wage earners in any way connected with wholesale and retail markets; slaughtering and packing establishments; sausage makers; poultry, egg, and creamery workers; food cannery employees; dehydraters; and any employee engaged in the processing of foods; sheep shearers; live stock handlers; and those handling fish in wholesale establishments and retail fish markets."

New Charter Issued

In September of last year, the organized retail meat cutters in Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster voted unanimously to affiliate with the Amalgamated. On December 21, 1948, a charter was issued by the Amalgamated, and in January of this year the organized retail meat cutters in British Columbia transferred to the new union, Local 212. Ten years ago the Amalgamated issued a charter to this area, but within a few weeks of its issuance, war broke out and the charter was recalled. (The meat cutters at that time belonged to the same organization as the grocery clerks, and so when the charter was recalled they returned to the Clerks' Union.) Now with a much broader and more specific jurisdiction within the ramifications of the meat industry, the organized meat cutters of British Columbia are looking forward to expansion, and with expansion to the establishment of a wage rate comparable to that received by craftsmen in other organized industries.

Union Agreements

Local 212 presently holds union shop contracts with the following firms: Woodwards (meat, fish, poultry and delicatessan departments). Safeway (41 stores located in Greater Vancouver, Greater Victoria and New Westminster). Superior Food Stores (23 outlets located in B. C.'s three major cities). B. & K. Economy Stores (12 stores operating meat departments, located in Greater Vancouver and New Westminster). Co-Workers, Co-op., North Vancouver.

International Vice-president Joseph Henderson has spent considerable time in this area assisting in the establishment of the new local, and investigating organizational possibilities.

In January, the Amalgamated appointed George Johnston as Special International Répresenative and assigned him to assist the new local, and he took over the post of secretary-treasurer of Local 212 in an acting capacity. On August 2nd an election was held for the office of secretary. Brother Johnston was elected by acclamation, and therefore resigned his position with the International.

Union Market Card

Local 212 has instituted a program for publicizing the Union Market Card of the Amalgamated, and is urging all trade unionists, their families and friends to patronize only those meat markets and departments which display the Union Market Card.

Headquarters of Local 212 are located in the new, spacious, modern Labor Temple.

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By displaying the Union Market Card, meat markets or departments are indicating that all persons employed in the market or department are members of the A. F. of L. Amalgamated Meat Cutters' Union.

A list of stores displaying the Union Market Card will be published in future editions of the Labor Statesman.

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A World Federation of Free Trade Unions

By GEORGE MEANY
Secretary-Treasurer, American Federation of Labor

The objective (of the recent meeting of free trade union leaders) was to establish a new worldwide federation of free unions, which would advance the cause of world peace, check Communist infiltration and destruction of free trade unionism and promote higher standards for workers on an international level.

At our conference in Geneva, 38 national labor organizations with a total membership of almost 50,000,000 workers were represented.

By democratic free trade unions, I mean unions free from domination by government and free from domination by any specific political ideology. In other words, voluntary associations of free working men and women who have banded together to promote their economic betterment and not because they were ordered to do so by any government or by any political party.

The conference decided unanimously to go ahead with the formation of a new world organization of free trade unions. A committee was named to make arrangements for the first convention of this new body, which will be held in Europe around the end of November of this year.

Preservation of world peace depends upon the preservation of a free Europe. I think everyone recognizes that now. Our whole foreign policy is based upon that premise, so is the European Recovery Program for which our country is spending so many billions of dollars, but when you examine the problem more closely you are bound to discover that the key to the survival of freedom and democracy in Europe is the free trade union movement.

The threat to peace in Europe comes from only one source—Soviet Russia. As of today, Russia prefers to carry on its cold war strategy rather than risk open conflict. That strategy in the countries of Eastern Europe has been first to win over the labor movement to Communist control and then to take over the entire country. That is just what Russia did in Czechoslovakia. The same strategy is now being tried in Western Europe, especially in Italy and France. It has been actively supported and abetted by the so-called World Federation of Trade Unions. That organization has now been exposed as a Communist front and the free trade union organizations which once were affiliated with it have broken away.

Of course, the Communist labor front in Europe already has been weakened. By organizing the free trade union movements on a worldwide basis into an active, effective federation, we can really checkmate Russia's plans for using free trade unions as a stepping stone to revolution and ruin. I can think of no more effective way to safeguard world peace and democracy.

The American Federation of Labor has decided to join the new world organization and so has the CIO, along with trade union centres from Canada, South and Central America, Great Britain and other European nations. In addition, we had representatives from Asia, Australia and the Near East. We are all going to fight the spread of communism through infiltration of labor unions on every front and in every continent and we are determined to help lift economic standards everywhere so that peace and democracy will not be threatened by Communist exploitation of human misery and despair. We are going to bring new hope to the workers of the world, hope for peace, and hope for security and freedom.

By PAUL HOFFMAN
Administrator, Economic Co-operation Administration

There are more than 29,000,000 men and women in the trade union movement in the ERP countries. The support these men and women have given ECA has been of vital significance. They have, however, lacked the same strength as such an organization as a free trade union world federation will give them. Through the federation, labor's role in ERP will be much more effective.

Until recently the World Federation of Trade Unions had the international field almost to itself. That organization is controlled by the Communists. I think the support given ERP by the European trade unions in view of this circumstance is very remarkable.

Workers for the most part have been uninfluenced by the barrage of misrepresentation and downright malice directed at the recovery program by the anti-democratic forces, that is the Communists. Through the free trade union world federation workers will get facts as to the Marshall Plan rather than propaganda from the Kremlin. As these facts become known to them, we can be sure of the enthusiastic support of the workers. Labor's interest in democracy is fundamental; only in freedom will the workers realize their full potentiality. I would have been most unhappily surprised if the trade union movement in the ERP countries had not supported the recovery program enthusiastically.

Bert Jewell and Clinton Golden (ECA labor advisers) are two of my right-hand men. We have labor advisors in Paris and in each of the ECA country missions. Two of the mission heads, John Gross in Norway and Micheal Harris in Sweden, are labor men.

The American worker, I think, is aware of his stake in the economic stability of Europe. He realizes fully that a world half prosperous and half in economic ruin cannot long endure and that peace cannot be preserved for America if the forces that lead to war are on the rampage elsewhere.

I think there is no question but what our labor advisors and the labor people in ECA have been extremely effective in dispelling those doubts that might have persisted and prevailed if this had been only a business organization. Thy work with the labor union leaders in the various countries, they sit down in meetings with them and of course if any stories come up that need answering they answer those stories.

We talk about threatened collapse (of European economies) and we talk about it, I think, very carelessly.

My answer is that European nations which are facing new problems because of a shift from a seller's to a buyer's market will find an answer to their problems.

I have every reason to believe that in view of the progress made to date that European recovery can proceed provided we continue to give them our aid until such time as they are back on their feet and can carry their own affairs themselves.

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Jim-Crowism Flourishes, Canada

Brantford, Ont.—"Negroes are expected to do the dirtiest, lowest and most laborious jobs in society today," said Rev. Frederick O. Stewart to the 93rd annual convention of the British Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, meeting here. "Negroes are Jim-Crowed, segregated and pushed aside in many instances," he continued.

Revealing the attitude of Canadians to the members of his race, Rev. Mr. Stewart said: "Shocking conditions make not only our Negro children but our adults as well, virtually outcasts from society. Colored children are not allowed to attend youghters' summer camps, and girls of our group are not given the same assistance as is given to their white sisters. Appalling narrow-mindedness makes it impossible for our teen-aged colored girls and women to secure employment. In some instances, our men, although well educated, can secure only employment of the lowest standard."—Canadian Labor Rejorts.

It was at a musical comedy. "Why are all the men in the front rows baldheaded?" she asked.

"Because they bought their tickets from scalpers," he replied.

Newfoundland to Pass Labor Code

St. Johns, Nfld.—What is likely to be practically a carbon copy of the federal labor code is expected to become the labor law of our tenth province. Premier Smallwood has promised that such a law will be considered at the first session of the new provincial leginlature. Opening of the session occurred on July 18.

Immediately following the provincial election on May 27th, a deputation from the Bus Drivers and Mechanics Union waited upon Premier Smallwood concerning the refusal of the employers in St. Johns to negotiate with the union. At that time the premier promised to introduce a bill into the legislature that would require employers to negotiate with accredited union representatives.—Canadian Labor Reports.

No one is born prejudiced.

Shortly after Admiral Byrd's notable polar expedition returned from the Antarctic, someone asked one of the men what one thing he missed most while away.

"Temptation," was the laconic reply.

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