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TRADES & LABOR COUNCIL

BUILD STRONG UNIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

No. 613 VANCOUVER, CANADA, JANUARY, 1950 Established 1924

The Librarian Dept. of Labor D49

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WHAT THEY SAID . . .

Lincoln On Labor

Labor is entitled to every consideration over capital, for without labor there would be no capital.—Abe Lincoln.

A Trade Union Principle

The American Federation of Labor affirms as one of the cardinal principles of the trade union movement that the working people must organize, unite and federate, irrespective of creed, color, sex, nationality or politics.—Samuel Gompers.

What Depression Would Mean

"And this conviction I hold above all others: If ever again we do plunge into a depression of the 1929-1932 variety, capitalism and democracy as we have known them will disappear from our land.

"Then, without the dropping of a single bomb, the enemies of our society will have won the war. For the America which would come out of that depression would bear little, if any, resemblance to that which we have cherished for two centuries."—Columnist Sylvia F. Porter in The New York Times Magazine.

Our Way of Life!!!??

"There are 482,000 retail liquor dealers in the United States, or one for every 73 families. The liquor dealers number 29,000 more than all the schools and churches put together," says a Chicago business research organization.

It Doesn't Make Sense

"I remember a delightful visit to the West of America. After passing some weeks in a state owned park and driving through fifty miles of state-owned forests, I crossed a river on a public ferry and after travelling some distance on a municipal tram, was conducted over to the civic electrical works and the tax-supported hospital and the public schools.

"I tried in vain to obtain refreshments at several saloons which had been closed without compensation by the state, and finally visited the state university, where I heard a professor of economics, whose salary was defrayed from public funds, deliver to a body of several hundred students whose fees were paid from the same source, a lecture on the importance of untrammeled private enterprise and the dangerous immorality of socialism."—R. H. Tawney in "The British Labor Movement."

Workers' Rights to Organize Is Sacred

The right of workers to organize in unions "is something sacred in man—as much a part of his being as his right to use his eyes or ears or tongue," declared Bishop Francis J. Haas of the Grand Rapids diocese.

In a sermon at Steubenville, Ohio, Bishop Haas emphasized that workers must be organized into unions if real democracy is to function in the United States.

He also condemned "deep-seated hostility of certain powerful employer interests to unionism," and asserted that the Taft-Hartley Act was "written in the main under pressure of certain influential industrial and banking concerns."

"It is not too much to say that this law places the heel of government on the neck of organized labor," he declared. "It does not merely remove alleged abuses. It seeks to destroy—if such were possible—the labor movement."

Religion On Labor

And so to labor, as to an old friend, the Church addresses her message and that message is: "Organize! It is the only way to resist the 'immense power and despotic economic domination' which is concentrated in the hands of a few."—Bernard J. Shiel, Senior Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago.

The only hope for a truly implemented democratic way of life is in a free and alert trade union movement.—Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, K.A.M. Temple, Chicago.

The labor movement has helped many an individual to find himself in meaningful co-operation with his fellows. In the opportunity to participate in the life of the labor union, the worker has the chance to develop capacities for leadership, and thereby, he feels he has more to give as a neighbor and citizen. — Presbyterian Church Statement.

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UNEMPLOYMENT NOW A "NATIONAL EMERGENCY" SAY TLC AND CCL LEADERS

BENGOUGH AND MOSHER DEMAND IMMEDIATE GOVERNMENT ACTION

Government Charged With Deliberately Withholding True Figures on Unemployed

An immediate start by the Federal Government on its backlog of public works planned for an unemployment emergency was called for in a joint letter submitted by the Trades and Labor Congress and the Canadian Congress of Labor to the Dominion Cabinet and released to the public early in the new year. The government was urged to make use of its "carefully laid plans" to cope with unemployment figures over 300,000, which the letter charges are being withheld from the public.

In addition to deploring the Government's withholding of information from the public regarding the true unemployment figures the congress presidents emphasized that "we believe the time has come, if not overdue, when plans to meet unemployment should be put into effect."

The two labor leaders declared:

"The unemployment situation in Canada has recently become so serious as to cause grave apprehension throughout the nation. On behalf of our respective organizations, representing nearly a million Canadian workers, we wish to urge in the strongest possible manner that the Government not only make the full facts known, but take appropriate steps to meet what has become a national emergency.

"We desire to protest most emphatically against the failure of the Government to make public the figures on unemployment which are available in its records. For the last three months, the regular monthly report on claims for benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act has been withheld, and we are at a loss to understand why the Government is apparently endeavoring to keep this important information from the public.

"Even the published figures for October show an increase of over 90 per cent in the claimants on the live unemployment register, as compared with October, 1946, and since that time the situation has become drastically worse. On the basis of reports received by our respective headquarters, we have every reason to believe that over 300,000 workers are now unemployed in Canada, representing more than six per cent of the entire labor force.

Serious Situation

"It is evident that certain communist groups, following their usual destructive tactics, are endeavoring to exploit the situation. The fact that this is being done, however, does not in any way lessen the seriousness of the situation, or justify any attempt to minimize it.

"We have been repeatedly informed by the Government that it has carefully laid plans for taking care of any substantial increase in unemployment. We believe the time has come, if it is not in fact overdue, when these plans should be put into effect, and if they are not sufficient to meet the situation, then further steps must be taken. The Canadian labor movement is determined not to permit a repetition of the 'Hungry Thirties'."

Women's Auxiliary to Typographical Union

Women's Auxiliary No. 75 to the I.T.U. is composed of a group of ladies who are primarily interested in the promotion of the union label. Meetings are held once a month, socials are arranged, where enjoyable times are spent together. Recently a Christmas party was held and a whist drive and bazaar are planned for the spring.

It is interesting to note that there are three generations of the Rankin family all union printers. They are: Mr. J. Rankin, Mr. Wm. Rankin and Jack Rankin who recently started his apprenticeship.

Labor Supports Credit Unions

In a letter to the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council the B.C. Credit Union League drew to the attention of unions the remarkable work which is being done by the credit union movement.

The B.C. Credit Union League now represents 50,000 members who have saved about $12,000,000 and by lending this money to themselves have provided a worth while service at low cost.

In asking for more support from the labor movement, the communication points out that there are already 15 labor groups which have formed credit unions. In view of the value of this type of organization to workers, the League feels that more labor credit unions should be in existence.

Baptists Interested In Labor Movement

Bro. Jack Stevenson submitted an interesting report of a meeting he had attended as a representative of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council. The meeting had been called by the Social Service Department of the Baptist Churches which expressed interest in the labor movement and a desire to know more about its objectives.

Bro. Stevenson felt that the meeting had been worth while and that he had been given a good opportunity to express labor's views. He felt that the churchmen, many of whom were ministers, are sincerely interested in the labor movement. He found that the two bodies have a good deal in common in their interest in such problems as housing, unemployment, slums, and better health and living standards.

The Baptists, he reported, had 15,000 members in B.C. and over 5,000 with 31 churches in Vancouver.

"I believe that they can and will work with us in our struggle for social security," Bro. Stevenson said. He recommended that members of the group be invited to attend the second meeting in February and provision be made to have a speaker address the delegates at that time.

Council Supports N.W. Army and Navy Strike

Delegates to the New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council unanimously endorsed the recommendation of the executive that strike of the New Westminster Army and Navy employees ve endorsed in principle and that all affiliated members be asked to respect the picket line by not making any purchase at these stores.

The Vancouver Labor Council had written to inform the council that these stores were on their "We Do Not Patronize List."

Bro. McCulloch informed the delegates that no teamsters are crossing the picket line at New Westminster.

Labor Joint Health Ins. Committee To Meet

Vancouver Labor Council informed the delegates to the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council that a meeting of the Joint Health Insurance Committee has been called to discuss amendments to the Hospital Act, and requested that delegates be present.

The council accepted the Executive recommendation for action after they have studied the Hospital Act.

Wishing Our Readers and Advertisers A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Nails "Doctors Trust" Falsehood

To discredit President Truman's "health insurance" program, "Doctors' Trust" propagandists say it is like the British system, and that the latter is "compulsory" on both doctors and patients.

"That is wholly incorrect," replies Arthur M. Skeffington, Labor member of the British Parliament who is visiting this country.

"No British doctor is forced to join the program. No patient is forced to take advantage of the service. Under the British plan, you choose your own doctor just as anywhere else," Skeffington declared.

"What the plan does mean is that ability to pay no longer puts you at the head of the line for medical treatment. The oldest and poorest old-age pensioner in my district can have the finest treatment in the land if she requires it."

It would be difficult to improve on that statement. It is just as true of the Truman plan as it is of the British Labor medical system.—Labor.

Good Union Is Indispensable

Preserving of the goodwill and progress made in recent years in employee relations, when and if the time comes for reducing operation costs, was urged of businessmen by a New York City department store executive in an address before a group of California industrialists at Palm Springs.

"If personal reductions become necessary as the tightening up of organizations impends, we must make sure that the least shock on the people involved takes place and that great care be given the human equation," he said. Seniority, he added, must be a major factor and employees must be assured that they are being treated fairly.

A good union is indispensable in a big factory, the industrialists were told by a second speaker who is the works manager of a plant employing 20,000. He said, "I believe this principally because it provides a balance wheel and keeps management from becoming careless. We so-called hard-boiled industrialists need a check and in the big factories the good unions have provided it." He termed the Wagner Act the forerunner of a good labor code.—The Federated Railwayman.

Why Most 'Economy' Talk Is a Fake

This newspaper always has been and is now for real government economy. There is no excuse for wasting even one of the people's dollars. But the Taft-Republicans, Byrd-Democrats and National Association of Manufacturers are indulging in political propaganda when they talk of cutting Uncle Sam's annual expenditures by as much as $10 billion.

The reasons why such talk is a fake have often been pointed out by Labor. Confirmation of our stand came this week from two impressive sources.

Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming, who heads the Senate-House Economic Committee, said "the only substantial way of reducing expenditures, beyond what the President has attempted, is by further curtailing outlays necessary to combat Communism, to prepare for national defense, and to meet obligations arising from past wars."

O'Mahoney backed up that statement by explaining that such things as defense, veterans' benefits, foreign aid and interest on the war debt now take 75 cents of each dollar spent by Uncle Sam.

The same kind of financial facts were pointed out in an "Editorial Research Report," written by experts who are paid to prepare impartial information for newspaper editors, most of whom will not make much use of this particular report. Among other things, it says:

"Various welfare programs, which are a favorite target of spending critics, represent a relatively small share of the total budget."—Labor.

College World Is Shocked

People who are interested in college athletic contests—and that includes millions who never went to college—are being provided with some "food for thought."

Old Harvard, one of the universities at which football was founded, announces it is getting out of the "big-time" game. Hereafter, Harvard wil play only Princeton, Yale, and other "Ivy League" colleges which do not subsidize their "amateur" athletes.

Out at Kansas University, famous coach "Phog" Allen shocks the college world. He talks right out loud about something that is seldom mentioned.

College athletes, "Phog" warns, had better remember to pay income taxes on the secret salaries they get for playing "amateur" games. Otherwise, Uncle Sam is likely to get after them.

Rich "alumni", who pay players, colleges which give athletes "soft jobs", and even college presidents, who wink at it, are responsible for this state of affairs. Something seems wrong. Colleges are supposed to teach young men high ideals.—Labor.

There's No Ceiling Here

Economist Sumner H. Slichter gives us an interesting look at the America of 1980.

Most persons will be working only 30 hours a week.

With this short week, "output per man-hour in 1980 will be about 88.4 per cent greater than in 1948."

About 72.5 million persons will be employed.

The annual output of goods and services, which totalled $246.7 billion last year, will run around $416 billion.

Population will be 175 million compared with 150 million today.

The nation will have $992 billion invested in plant and equipment. Today we have only $442 billion so invested.

"People will have far more leisure and they will consume at least 50 per cent more per capita than now, and probably from 75 per cent to 100 per cent more."

". . . the United States will gradually become a country of two-car families . . .

". . . the family-size swimming pool is likely to become popular . . .

"Medical services of all kinds will be used far more than today.

"The proportion of people completing high school and spending some time in college will rise . . .

"A nation on a 30-hour week will have more opportunity to pursue a multitude of arts, from gardening to painting and writing, than any people has ever possessed."

How is America going to do all these things? Slichter, a Harvard professor, says the goals can be reached if the nation continues for another 30 years its rate of progress of the past half century.

Slichter's forecast is in an article, "How Big in 1980?" in the November issue of The Atlantic Magazine.—Chicago Federation News.

Union Label Drive Interests British

Washington.—British trades unionists like the American Federation of Labor's campaign for the use of union labels on union made goods.

"The Town Crier," Birmingham, England, labor weekly, asked AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany for information on this practice.

"This sort of thing is not done very much over here," Editor D. Rhydderch of the paper told Mr. Meany. "We thought it would be a good thing to devote some attention to what is an admirable trade union practice.

"I would like to borrow one of the little blocks you always have on the front page of your Weekly News Service (Allied Printing Trades Council). This would be a useful example of what your unions do.

Mr. Rhydderch also requested a copy of the picture published by the News Service of the Glass Bottle Blowers and Retail Clerks Association exhibit at the St. Paul convention.

I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Department, furnished a complete catalogue of union labels, a history of the union label campaign, copies of some of the labels, and the News Service furnished the requests to make a sizable packet of information for Mr. Rhydderch.

The moral of the story is: If the union label campaign has stirred so much interest in Birmingham, England, wouldn't it be timely to give a fresh boost to our campaign everywhere here at home?

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Reduced Per Capita, Revised Representation

The special committee appointed to study and report on the basis of representation of unions on the Trades and Labor Council recommended that Section 2 to Article II of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

1—	50	members	2 delegates
51—	100	"	3 "
101—	200	"	4 "
201—	300	"	5 "
301—	500	"	6 "
501—	750	"	7 "
751—	1000	"	8 "
1001—	1400	"	9 "
1401—	1800	"	10 "
over	1800	"	1 delegate for each 400 members

After discussion the committee agreed that instead of recommending one delegate for each 400 over 1800 membership that they would add the following:

1801—	2200	members	11 delegates
2201—	2600	"	12 "
2601—	3000	"	13 "
3001—	3400	"	14 "
3401—	3800	"	15 "
3801—	4200	"	16 "

The committee's recommendation as amended was approved.

The committee further recommended that Section 3 of Article II be amended to read as follows:

"Affiliated organizations shall pay a per capita tax of 5 cents per member per month on all members in good standing. All dues shall be paid monthly."

The present dues are 6 cents per member per month.

The recommendations as amended were approved by the delegates and will come up for the third and final reading at the first February meeting of the council. A two-thirds majority will be necessary to pass the amendments at that time.

Sulphite Workers To Take Strike Vote

Delegate O. Braaten, Pulp and Sulphite Workers, reported that the Bonar and Bemis Co. have refused to accept the award of the Conciliation Board covering the employees in their plant at 900 Parker Street. There are 80 employees affected and the union has asked for a strike vote in this plant.

Non-Union Cabarets May Sign Agreements

Grievance Committee Chairman R. Cormack reported progress on the matter referred to the committee requesting that the Gay Paree and the Flame Cabarets be placed on the non-patronage list. It was reported that the Musicians' Union is trying to reach an agreement with the parties.

Chairman Cormack also reported that he had met with the Granite Cutters' representative and the committee are writing the B.C. Monumental Works requesting a meeting. It was moved that the Grievance Committee have power to act in this case.

Irving Has Criticism For LRB Decision

Delegate H. Irving, Laundry Workers Local 292, was critical of the decision of the Labor Relations Board in regard to an agreement signed with his union by Farina Laundry in 1946, before the union had obtained certification under the ICA Act. In 1947, the agreement had been reopened and a closed shop with check-off successfully negotiated.

The agreement stood until this year when the employer stopped paying the dues into the union under the contract.

"When I took the matter before the Labor Relations Board," said Delegate Irving, "I was informed by the Board that my union should have been certified as the bargaining agent. I applied for certification and by this time the Board was in doubt as to whether the union had a majority and took a vote, which resulted in the union proving a majority."

The Board then informed Bro. Irving that the agreement was not binding under the Act as it was signed prior to the union being certified and that the union would have to begin negotiations again.

Brother Irving warned that other unions are in this position and are in danger of having their agreements wiped out by the Board. Some large unions are in this position, he said.

President Showler stated that this matter has already been taken up with the Minister of Labor.

Delegate Irving urged the labor movement to take action to have the act changed so that any agreement signed, and being in force, cannot be wiped out by the Board.

Delegate Kemmis said that in the case of Clancy's with his union, the Board had given a decision which was just the reverse of that given to the Laundry Workers. Clancy's had had a company agreement with their employees and the Board ruled that the company enforce the agreement under the Act.

"I think the Labor Relations Board is the biggest labor busting outfit the employers ever got organized," Bro. Kemmis declared.

Lathers Ask Wages Be Paid in Cash

Lathers' International Union, Local 207, have requested by resolution that the Provincial Government require all wages to be paid in cash rather than by cheque.

While agreeing with the recommendation as it affects certain smaller firms, the delegates felt that such a regulation would not work in the best interests of the majority of workers.

The recommendation contained in the resolution was not adopted.

ALEC. DORLAND
Assistant Business Manager Electrical Workers' Union No. 213.

Board Attacked As 'Labor-Buster'

Labor Relations Board was accused of being a "labor-busting device for employers."

The charge was made by Melvin Kemmis, business agent of the Bakery & Confectionery Workers (AFL) at a meeting of the Vancouver and District Trades and Labor Council (AFL-TLC).

"That Board is the biggest labor-busting device the employers were ever successful in organizing," he said. "We can't even take a strike vote without the employers sitting in."

He was one of several delegates who criticized the board, backing up a brief presented recently to Labor Minister John H. Cates by the provincial executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Act "Too Cumbersome"

The brief, presented January 4, complained that the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, B. C.'s labor code, is "too cumbersome, unwieldy, and contains sections that are impractical and have no value to labor or industry, as well as being most contradictory."

The TLC submission asked for a clause in the act making a union shop mandatory in an agreement if the trade union certified for the employees asks for it.

The brief urged elimination of the government-supervised strike vote.

"As the vast majority of our organizations have embodied in their constitutions strict provision for taking strike ballots, there is no need for the supervised strike vote as required under the act," the brief said. "Such supervision by the government is simply interfering with the constitutional rights of the citizens and the operations of legitimate trade unions.

"At no time should employees who are not members of the union be permitted to vote on the strike question. Neither should employers be permitted a scrutineer at such ballot."

Other points asked are outlawing of company unions, power for the LRB to prosecute for infractions of the act, and shortening of the "time lapse between the breakdown of collective bargaining and the taking of final action such as a strike vote."

Attacks Wilkinson

Bro. Kemmis attacked George Wilkinson, Victoria AFL union official appointed to the board.

"He tells us the LRB is acting in the interests of organized labor," Bro. Kemmis said. "I'm very much surprised if he believes that."

An amendment to the ICA Act to uphold agreements signed before the union was certified as bargaining authority is being asked by the Painters and Decorators, delegate Jack Eaves reported.

He was commenting on a report from J. H. Irving, Laundry Workers, that the board had ruled an agreement with a laundry was no good because the union was not certified.

"This board has got to be checked," Delegate Irving said, adding that the board chairman had told him that the board can "do as it likes."

"Now if that isn't working with the employer, I don't know what is," Mr. Irving said.

Elimination of 9-Day Waiting Period Asked

Metal Trades Council have asked for support in their effort to have the 9-day waiting period removed when a worker enters his new benefit year. The Council is asking that the government take steps to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act.

The resolution was endorsed by the delegates to the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council.

Monumental Works Draws Union's Ire

Granite Cutters International Association of America have written to the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council asking that the B. C. Monumental Works at 3096 Main Street be placed on the "We Do Not Patronize List" of the Council.

The Granite Workers state that this firm was placed on their union as far back as 1932. Recent attempts to organize this firm have failed.

The matter was referred to the Grievance Committee of the Council.

Local 136 Chartered By I.B. & C.W. (A.F.L.)

The Brick and Clay Workers Federal Union, Local 136, have informed the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council that they have now been chartered by the United Brick and Clay Workers of America (AFL).

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At the end of the first week away from home on a new job, the young husband wrote to his wife: "Made foreman—feather in my cap."

After the second week he wrote: "Made manager—another feather in my cap."

After the third week he wired: "Sacked—send money."

To which she replied: "Use feathers, fly home."

Fair Wages Conditions in Federal Government Contracts

The Fair Wages Policy of the Dominion Government has the purpose of ensuring that all government contracts contain provisions to secure the payment of wages generally accepted as current in each trade for competent workmen in the district where the work is carried out.

There are two sets of conditions applicable to government contracts, those which apply to building and construction work, and those which apply to contracts for the manufacture of various classes of government supplies and equipment.

The practice of the different departments of the Government, before entering into contracts in the first group, is to obtain from the Department of Labor schedules setting forth the current wage rates for the different classifications of workmen required in the execution of the work. These schedules, known as fair wage schedules,are thereupon included by the department concerned in the terms of the contract.

Fair wages schedules are not issued in respect of contracts for supplies and equipment. Contracts in this group are awarded in accordance with a policy which provides that wage rates must equal those current in the district.

A more detailed account of the Dominion Government's Fair Wages Policy is given in the Labor Gazette for July, 1946., p. 932.

SCHEDULES PREPARED AND CONTRACTS AWARDED DURING SEPTEMBER.

(1) Works of Construction, Remodelling, Repair or Demolition.

During the month of September the Department of Labor prepared 190 fair wages schedules for inclusion in building and construction contracts proposed to be undertaken by various departments of the Government of Canada in different parts of the Dominion.

During the same period a total of 126 construction contracts was given out by the various Government departments.

Copies of the relevant wages schedules are available t o trade unions or other bona fide interested paries, on request.

The labor conditions of each of the contracts listed under this heading, besides stipulating working hours of not more than eight per day and forty-four per week, provide "where, by provincial legislation, or by agreement or current practice, the working hours of any class of workers are less than forty-four per week, such lesser hours shall not be exceeded on this work except in cases of emergency as may be approved by the Miniser of Labor and then only subject to the payment of overtime rates as specified by the Minister of Labor", and also specify that the rates of wages set out therein are "minimum rates only" and that "nothing herein contained shall be considered as exempting contractors and subcontractors from the payment of higher rates in any instance where, during the continuance of the work such higher rates are fixed by provincial legislation, by agreements between employers and employees in the district or by changes in prevailing rates."

Education Committee Makes Survey

Brother F. Templeton, Vancouver Secondary Teachers, Chairman of the Educational Committee, reported that a survey is to be made soon to find out what unions are carrying on educational programs among their members. He requested that delegates whose unions are doing educational work should see that a complete report is submitted.

Preparation Counts

In any meeting of a Labor-Management Production Committee, preparation counts just as much as the discussion. This cannot be overemphasized. Preliminary work is most important—on it may depend the success of the meeting.

It has many advantages. For instance, preparation eliminates the human tendency of a representative to "keep something up his sleeve" and then bring it out for the sheer delight of spreading a bit of consternation among the assemblage.

Many committees rely on the chairman to keep the discussion within reasonable bounds. This is successful where the chairman is an outstanding figure—such men are not too numerous. Therefore the ideal way is to have every item for discussion listed on the agenda beforehand. This ensures that everyone comes to the meeting knowing what is going to be discussed and armed with the relevant facts concerning it.

An agenda is therefore important. However, it cannot be prepared out of thin air. The members of the committee must make known well in advance the subjects they wish to discuss. Management must submit their items, labor must submit theirs. Then the secretary may go ahead and make up an agenda that will serve a useful purpose. Then, when meeting time comes around, intelligent, prepared discussion can take place, guided by the chairman who has only to insure adherence to the agenda.

Protest Collection of Hospital Insurance From Indigent

The International Association of Machinists, Lodge 692, have written a strongly worded letter to the Minister of Health and Welfare protesting the collection of Hospital Insurance premiums from those not in a position to pay.

On recommendation of the Executive, this matter was referred to the Provincial Executive.

BERT WYBREW

Business Agent of Building Service Workers' Union.

A. F. of L. Teamsters 'Recognize' CIO Pickets

No AFL teamsters are crossing the picket line at the Army and Navy department store at New Westminster, teamsters' delegates reported to the Vancouver and District Trades and Labor Council (AFL-TLC).

Council was told that the teamsters leave freight for the store on the sidewalk.

Retail, Wholesale tnd Department Store Union (CIO) members have been on strike at the store for 147 days.

The council endorsed "in principle" a request from the Vancouver Labor Council (CCL that AFL unions respect the picket line, and members not make any purchases at the store.

Fatal Industrial Accidents in Canada

There were 370 industrial fatalities in Canada during the third quarter of 1949 according to the latest reports received by the Department of Labor. This marks an increase of 59 fatalities over the previous quarter in which 311 accidents were recorded, including 40 in a supplementary list. During the third quarter of 1948 there were 401 deaths as a result of industrial accidents, including 35 in supplementary lists.

Thea ccidents recorded are those which involved persons gainfully employed during the course of, or arising out of, their employment. The statistics include deaths which resulted from industrial accidents as reported by the provincial Workmen's Compensation Board.

Statistics on industrial fatalities are compiled from reports received from the various provincial Workmen's Compensation Boards, the Board of Transport Commissioners, and certain other official sources. Newspaper reports are used to supplement these data.

During the quarter under review there were three accidents which resulted in three or more industrial fatalities in each case. On August 10, three slashers engaged in hydro-electric maintenance work were drowned when a tow rope, which was attached to a boat in which they were travelling through rapids near Pine Portage, Ontario, broke, causing the boat to capsize. Four members of the Meteorological Service of the Department of Transport and a nurse on duty were killed near Norway House, Manitoba, on August 23, when the aircraft in which they were travelling crashed. On September 9, an explosion in, and subsequent crash of, an aeroplane, near St. Joachim, Quebec, resulted in the death of four members of the crew and two paper plant employees who were travelling in connection with their work. While there were a number of other passengers killed as a result of this crash it is not known that their deaths were incidental to their employment and hence their deaths are not classed as industrial fatalities.

Grouped by industries the largest number of fatalities, 74, was recorded intransportation. Of these, 27 occurred in local and highway transportation and 26 in steam transportation. During the previous quarter there were 47 industrial fatalities in transportation of which steam railways were responsible for 24 and local and highway transportation for 10.

There were 52 industrial deaths in manufacturing during the third quarter, 16 of which occurred in the iron and steel products group. In the previous three month period there were 57 fatalities in the manufacturing industries including 17 in iron and steel products. In the third quarter of 1948 there were 80 industrial fatalities in manufacturing.

In agriculture there were 50 accidental deaths during the three month period as compared with 31 and 9 during the second and first quarters of 1949 respectively. The increasing number of fatalities reflects the increasing activity in this industry during the first three quarters of the year.

There were 48 fatalities in the various branches of the construction industry during the third quarter of 1949 as compared with 38 in the previous three months and 67 in the third quarter of 1948.

Favor Semi-Annual Audited Statement

Painters and Decorators of America, Local 138, have informed the Trades Council that they favor the forwarding of the semi-annual financial report of the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council to the affiliated unions.

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Definition of an electrical dope: The fellow who was spending the evening with his girl when a fuse burned out and spent the rest of the evening fixing the short.

Drunk (to splendidly uniformed bystander): "Shay, call me a cab, willya?"

Splendidly-uniformed bystander: "Sir, I am not a doorman! I am a naval officer!"

Drunk: "Awright. Then call me a boat. I wanna go home."

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Vancouver, Canada, January, 1950

The Unemployment Crisis

Daily press reports clearly reveal the seriousness of the unemployment situation in Canada and the United States. A growing body of discharged workers continues to swell the ranks of the unemployed.

Unemployment has risen steadily in the United States during the past year. Some experts have estimated that it will exceed 5,000,000 during 1950. There are now 300,000 unemployed workers in Canada, and no less than 40,000 in Vancouver alone.

The Dominion Government has given no assurance that it appreciates the seriousness of the situation or that it has taken any effective steps to cope with it. Labor Minister Humphrey Mitchell, when in Vancouver two months ago, treated the matter lightly by saying that unemploymet is seasonal, that it comes like the snow in winter, and that nothing can be done about it.

In discussing a government "white paper" on reconstruction on April 12, 1945, the Hon. C. D. Howe said: "The purpose will be to have on hand at all times a shelf of public projects already planned and available when needed to stimulate employment in any given area."

The present government has not revealed what plans it has, if any, to provide this "shelf" of public works to take up the slack in unemployment. As late as last February, the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, Hon. R. H. Winters, in reply to a questioner in the House, indicated that the government plans at that time would not provide more than 32,700 jobs.

Unless the government has drastically revised and expanded its program of public works, it is not in a position to provide work for more than 1 in 10 of those now unemployed in Canada.

Unemployment is now a serious problem. Daily it grows more acute. The Dominion Government must act and act quickly if the workers of Canada are not to experience once again the suffering of the Hungry '30s.

How Do You Define Freedom?

By RUTH TAYLOR

There are so many definitions for freedom. It is what you call an alluring word—because it means all things to all people.

Ask the small boy on a spring day and he'll answer you promptly, "No school and the fish biting." Ask the speculator, he'll say, "No restrictions—and a quick market." Ask the dictator and he'll say, "A fat neighbor who will not struggle against my divine right to take what I want."

Ask the pioneer and he will say, "Uncluttered horizons and a chance to make my own way." Ask the idealist and he will say, "A new world where all may share the bounties of the earth." Ask the religious man and he will say, "A life in which I may worship my God according to my own conscience and obey His holy laws."

Why are there so many definitions? Because freedom is not a static thing. It is not a rule but a way of life. It is an obligation. It is determined by our relationship to other people. Only the hermit can be free alone. Freedom in a civilized community is the way of life that demands intelligent followers.

Freedom does not include the right to carry poison, to talk against our neighbor, to judge him by his ancestors or his kindred. Only by his companions, may we ever condemn him. Freedom carries with it a belief in the dignity and sacredness of every human being. 'For all—Jew and Gentile, White and Negro, rich and poor—there should be unrationed brotherhood," is the slogan of one free community. Freedom must demonstrate to the world that a diversity of culture strengthens our nation, feeding with fresh water the springs of national life.

Freedom is justice and we must remember that in a court of justice a man is honest until proven otherwise. Judgment is not passed on what others have done. Judge not thy neighbors by others. There are good and bad in every creed and more good than bad.

One man's freedom is another man's freedom—whether it be in America, in China, in Norway or in darkest Africa. No man is really free unless all men are free. No man's home is safe unless all men's homes are safe. What is freedom to you? Think it over carefully and then apply it to your fellow men, to your brother. It must fit you both, or it is not freedom.

Getting Adequate Home Is Tough Proposition For Workers' Family

Ottawa.—The disgraceful shortage of adequate housing was underscored recently by the story of Leo Sabourin.

With his wife and two young children, Sabourin, a construction worker, lived in one room of Toronto's "Stanley Barracks."

For months he tried to get a decent home but as soon as he mentioned the children, "the landlords would turn us down cold."

Six months ago Sabourin was riding a motorcycle and was hit by a Canadian National Express truck. His right leg was crippled. He sued the Canadian National, charging negligence. A jury awarded him a judgment for $15,000.

Now his family will be able to get a decent home. They plan to buy a house.—Labor.

Tobin's Sixteen Points on T-H

What's wrong with the Taft-Hartley Act?

The next time a businessman friend of yours asks this question, you might show him the following.

Secretary of Labor Maurice Tobin presents this 16-point indictment of the anti-labor legislation:

1. The Act's banning of union security agreements mutually beneficial to both labor and management for a period of over 100 years.
2. The special emphasis placed by the Act on the use of injunctions to settle labor disputes.
3. The Act's removal of the Conciliation Service from the Department of Labor.
4. The broad discretionary power placed by the Act in the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, making him virtually "a labor czar."
5. The Act's provisions for numerous elections which keep employer-employee relations in a constantly unsettled condition.
6. The Act's outlawing of peaceful picketing in many situations.
7. The Act's restrictions on the check-off.
8. The Act's denial of the right to vote to economic strikers.
9. The Act's provision for employers' petitions for union representation elections.
10. The Act's restrictions on health and welfare funds.
11. The Act's surrender of Federal jurisdiction where state laws are more restrictive on union security.
12. The Act's broad ban on political contributions and expenditures by labor organizations.
13. The Act's provisions for damage suits against unions.
14. The Act's indiscriminate outlawing of all secondary boycotts, whether justifiable or not.
15. The Act's provision for mandatory injunctions against certain union unfair practices.
16. The Act's elaborate and inflexible procedures including an 80-day waiting period enforced by injunction in emergency disputes, combined with prohibition against recommendations by boards of inquiry to assist the parties to settle such disputes.

New Year's Message by Percy R. Bengough, C.B.E., President, Trades and Labor Congress of Canada

PERCY R. BENGOUGH
President Trades and Labor Congress of Canada

In the name of the four hundred and sixty thousand Canadian men and women affiliated to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada I extend to the people of Canada our New Year's Greetings. We sincerely wish you health, happiness and prosperity during the coming year. We fully realize that good wishes have to be implemented by deeds and I can say, with assurance, that the working people of Canada will do their part by fully co-operating with both government and industry in making 1950 a productive year. However, it must be recognized that Organized Labor cannot do its full share in establishing industrial peace and stability unless gainful employment is available for all able and willing to work. The fear of unemployment is still a disturbing factor in some sections of Canada.

Organized Labor, as represented in the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, does not seek the impossible. Our objectives are for full social security on a contributory basis. We seek protection for all against unemployment, sickness and old age — a practical objective that could be properly financed by government, industry and labor and, in effect, would eliminate most of the disturbing fears that are a constant source of worry to most of our people.

With present commodity costs and increased rents, the plight of our aged citizens on fixed pensions must not be lost sight of. All of our governments, and certainly most of the people in Canada, fully realize the need of increasing this meagre allowance. How astonishing it is in this time and place that, to qualify for the substandard allowance, known as the old age pension, the applicant has to prove first that he is a pauper in a land of plenty. Why a Means Test after making a contribution of a full life's work is hard to understand.

A good and timely New Year's resolution for our governments, both dominion and provincial, to adopt, would be for the elimination, early this year, of the Means Test from applications for old age pensions. The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada will continue during the coming year to press for the enactment of laws establishing full social security in which all Canadians can participate and benefit.

On the economic field we desire to improve the conditions of workers through the orderly processes of negotiating and reaching mutual agreements between the employees and employers. On the international field our efforts will continue to be directed to thes trengthening of true democracy and world peace.

PERCY R. BENGOUGH.

Hon. Humphrey Mitchell Gives New Year Message

On the eve of another New Year, I extend warmest greetings to the workers of Canada.

We can look back on 1949 with thankful hearts. For the third successive year, employment topped the five million mark and, at the peak period in September, stood at five and one-quarter millions. Export demands and domestic needs sustained the general level of production. Actually the physical volume of production exceeded the previous year by about three per cent.

One of the most important factors supporting a high level of production and employment was the absence of serious industrial strikes. Both labor and management are to be congratulated for settling their problems in the common interest.

In addition, Canadians in all walks of life are indebted to responsible trade unionism for the step taken to deal with Communistic elements.

Predicting what the future has in store for us is always difficult but, when we consider the tremendous world consumer demand still unsatisfied and relate this to the productive capacity of Canada, we should be optimistic. This is a grand country in which we live. Let us do everything we can in 1950 to maintain our progress.

My earnest hope is that the New Year will be a happy one for all our people.

Scared Power Moguls! --But Not In Alberta

Labor, Washington, November 5:

"Perhaps you frequently ask yourself, 'Why are certain interests making such a hullabaloo about the welfare state?"

"Well, one of many reasons is that those interests feel Uncle Sam will build more T.V.A.'s and work harder to reduce rates charged by private light companies.

"That the Power Trust has good reason to be nervous is revealed by Frank Gannett's Utica daily. That's a strange place to find a worthwhile editorial, because Gannett is one of the master propagandists.

"However, his paper says that the cheapest light rates in this country are to be found in Tacoma, Washington, 'which owns its own power plant and charges only $3.20 for 250 kilowatts.'

Compare That With Your Light Bill

"The editorial continues that 20 years ago 250 kilowatts in Utica cost $13.50 and that the present price is $6.69! Quite a drop! And says Gannett, 'Now the utilities are in stronger condition and are earning more than ever.'

"He frankly confesses that the reductions might not have occurred if Congress had not moved to end 'the evil' of excessive capitalization and other abuses practiced by the power moguls."

—o—

One In Eight

Stanley Knowles, M.P., in Throne Speech Debate

"When you give full credit to everything private industry is doing, full credit to the life insurance companies, full credit to the government annuities program and full credit to the civil service persion plans of all governments in this country, the fact remains that only about one in eight of our Canadian people between the ages of 20 and 60 is in a position to provide for their old age."

I Shall Be True

What have you brought for me,
O New-born Year,
Inscribed upon your scroll?
Is it prosperity?
Perchance a tear.
Or have you there a joy concealed?
Upon your face 'tis not revealed.

Nay, nay, I would not know,
Nor shall I fear
What you have hidden there;
And though you bring but woe,
O New-born Year,
I promise that I shall be true,
And open wide my doors to you.

Rose L. Firth,
United Garment Workers' Union.

Labor's League For Political Education

The A.F. of L.'s political instrumentality is Labor's League for Political Education (L.L.P.E.), which began operations in March, 1948. Its head is Joe Keenan, the secretary (on leave) of the Chicago Federation of Labor and during the war a vice chairman of the War Production Board.

Despite the ballyhoo about large expenditures, the official report of the organization discloses no lavish sums expended. Since T-H forbids unions from making contributions to political campaigns, the L.L.P.E. raises money for political work from individual contributions. From April, 1948, to July, 1949, the L.L.P.E. raised $358,000 for political work, of which $139,000 was used for operating expenses, etc, while $181,000 went back to state leagues for electoral activity. In Minnesota alone, $16,880 was spent to help defeat Joe Ball and elect Hubert Humphrey. However, for educational work between elections, L.L.P.E. can solicit union contributions, and the A.F. of L., at its 1948 convention, flushed with the Truman victory, suggested a 10 cents-a-member assessment for an educational fund. Contributions to the educational fund, which was set up in November, total, to date, $412,000. As of July, thirty-two unions had paid their contributions in full and 22 in part, about half the number of unions.

The new-type political activity of the A.F. of L. presages a slow, subtle yet distinct shift in the power structure of the A.F. of L. Although the national unions through their large treasuries still provide the financial sinews of the league, it is the officers of the state federations and the municipal labor bodies who will direct the political operations, be the liaison with the local politicos, and with political victories come to have a "power base" of their own in the federation. Among such important "new" names —although many of them are oldtimers—are Joe Keenan, Phil Hannah of Ohio, C. J. Haggerty and John Shelley of California.—Exchange.

Save Your Eyesight

Have you ever wondered why so many people have to wear glasses? The U.S. Public Health Service has a double-barrelled answer for that question: our eyes won't stand the strain demanded by modern living, and most of us don't take as much care of our eyes as we should.

Nature, the Public Health Service says, intended our eyes for "distance" vision—for working out of doors, and not for close indoor work such as reading a book or a blue print, or checking up on the small working parts of an intricate machine.

Furthermore, nature meant for man to use his eyes in natural daylight, and not in factory, home and workshop, where much of the work is done under artificial light.

The Health Service gives these rules for protecting your eyesight:

Adjust window blinds and shades to eliminate glare.

If more light is needed at your work bench, or desk, don't hesitate to ask for a desk lamp or other supplementary light.

A shiny desk or bench surface, such as a glass-topped desk, is hard on the eyes because it reflects light. A dark colored desk top, desk blotter or work bench is also bad. Desk blotters should be tan colored and desk and work bench tops light colored. An ivory colored surface is best of all.

NOT SO HIGH

Mrs. Henpeck: "Everything is going up."

Mr. Henpeck: "Oh, I wouldn't say that. For instance, there's your opinion of me, my opinion of you, and the neighbors' opinion of us both."

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Trades Union Directory

LABOR TEMPLE, 307 BROADWAY WEST

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

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

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

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

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

Beverage Dispensers and Culinary Workers, No. 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 MArine 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—W. Pye, 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, G. I. Guy, 545 East 47th. Phone FRaser 5741.

Electrical Workers' Union, Local 213—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, R. F. Wilson, 5841 Alma Rd.

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 B71—Secretary, C. W. Backus, 1928 East 40th Avenue.

Fire Fighters, No. 18—Business Agent, Hugh Bird, 3196 West 14th; CH. 5686.

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. 1841—Business Agent, R. V. Nash, 2803 E. 18th Avenue.

Furniture Workers, U. B. C., Local No. 2533—Secretary, Olive King, 101 Labor Temple; FA. 9713.

Furniture & Mill Workers, U. B. C., Local No. 2534 (New Westminster)—Secretary, Vic Smith, 139 E. 10th, New Westminster, B. C.

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

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

Hospital Employees' Union, No. 180 — Business Agent, W. M. Black, 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 2752-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, No. 182—Secretary, J. Bygate, 3167 Kitchener St. Phone HA. 5583M.

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.

Maintenance-of-Way Employees, Local No. 167 (C. P. R.)—Secretary, S. Wray, 2487 Kitchener Street.

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

Marine Engineers, National Association of, Council No. 7—Secretary, H. B. McKie, 319 West Pender Street. Phone: PAcific 8549.

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.

Musicians' Union, Local 145 — Business Manager, Geo. E. Leach, Suite 51, 553 Granville St. PAcific 7842.

Office Employees' Int. Union, Local No. 15—Secretary, E. Gouthro, 106 Labor Temple; FA. 4343.

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

Paint & Varnish Workers' Union, Local No. 1550—Secretary, L. J. Pribyl, 150 E. 49th. Phone FRaser 8268.

Paper Makers' International Brotherhood, (Ocean Falls) Local No. 360 — Secretary, W. P. Martin, Ocean Falls.

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

Patternmakers, Local No. 1260 — Secretary, Leo. Wiles, 1584 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, B.C.; West 1493-R.

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

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

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

Plasterers' Union, No. 779 — Secretary, H. West, 3419 West 23rd, BAy. 6333-M.

Plumbers and Pipefitters (Railroad) — **Local 571**—Secretary, Lloyd Elzick, 1877 Haro Street.

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

Pulp and Sulphite (Conventers) Union, Local 433—Secretary, F. Mackinnon, Business Agent, O. Braaten, 339 W. Pender. TAtlow 1642.

Pursers and Chief Stewards, Local 130 —Secretary, R. Stover, 1451 Woodland Drive.

Railway Carmen (Port Mann), Lodge No. 280—Secretary, J. R. Doutaz, 707 Dublin St., New Westminster, B.C.

Railway and Steamship Clerks, No. 616 —Secretary, T. W. Kirby, 3566 Triumph Street.

Railway and Steamship Clerks, No. 626 —Secretary, A. Padgham, 5013 Payne St., DExter 1275-L.

Refrigeration Workers, No. 516, U. A. J. F. 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. 5242.

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, D. Bremner, 565 Hamilton St.; PAcific 7824.

Sign and Pictorial Painters, Local 726—Secretary, J. Middleton, 5381 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, G. F. Murphy, 78 East 2nd Ave.

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

Tile Setters, Local No. 8—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, Miss Eileen Scheelar, 1322 Beach Avenue.

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.

'King Canute' and Chronic Illness

Whether or not he so intended, Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, chief of Uncle Sam's Public Health Service, this week made a good argument for President Truman's "health insurance" plan.

Surveys have shown, Scheele said, that 976 persons of each 1,000 "have some disease or defect," such as "anemia, diabetes, faulty vision, hearing loss, glaucoma, heart disease, high blood pressure, tuberculosis and syphilis."

If these and other ailments were discovered and treated "promptly", Scheele continued, "not only would lives be saved, but prolonged illness and invalidism would be prevented.

"The prevention of chronic illness is the greatest health problem that this nation faces today. Without prevention, our efforts to halt the rising tide of chronic illness will be no more effective than was King Canute's command to the stormy seas."

How can chronic illness be prevented, so long as millions of Americans cannot afford to see a doctor even when they are near death's door, let alone to get an all-around "physical check-up" before it is too late?

Because big employers opposed pension tax increases, Social Security retirement benefits have been kept miserably low. Now some employers are changing their minds, because they face union demands for company-paid pensions. For example, General Motors President C. E. Wilson said this week that "adequate Federal pensions seem to be the real answer to the pension problem."

How Corporations Make Big Profits Look Little

The way corporations make big profits look little, by "splitting" their stock, was illustrated this week by a report of the Union Carbide and Carbon Company.

That huge concern, which has a big part in Uncle Sam's atomic bomb production, in 1948 netted a $102 million profit, "the largest in its history."

That profit, the report says, was $3.55 on each share of the company's stock.

In April 1948, however, the company "split" its stock, by giving its owners three new shares for each of their old shares.

If that had not been done, the 1948 report would have shown a profit of $10.65 on each of the old shares. That would have looked much higher, to the public, than the $3.55 a share in this week's report.

If this was not the first "split" in the Union Carbide and Carbon stock, the actual profit, on each original share, was even higher than $10.65.

This stock splitting has long been done by many corporations. That's one reason why their profit reports are deceptive.—Labor.

Participate

We hear a great deal nowadays about democracy. We hear a great deal about communism and various other kinds of "isms". We also hear a great deal about free enterprise.

I believe that many of us do not realize just how all these privileges, all of these rights which we now enjoy, came about. We have accepted our right to get on our hind legs and howl at any time at anything that displeases us as a divine right. We have accepted the right to participate in the election of who will govern us as being a right that has been handed down from on high—the right to worship as we please, the right to say what we want to say, the right of assembly, the right to have some dignity as a human being.

Those rights have been fought for for many, many centuries, away back before the Mayflower landed. And that battle has been constantly going on. And simply because we began to accept those things as being our divine right, just as we accept the water we drink or the air we breathe, we are liable to lose those things.

We must take part in accepting those responsibilities which are ours. Let's not complain about who gets elected or the kind of laws we have unless we have participated in those elections.

You are good, honest union men and women, and I think it was Sam Gompers who many years ago said that you can't be a good union man unless you are a good citizen. I don't believe that you can be a good union man until first you are a good citizen and participate in all of the activities that a citizen should participate in, taking an interest in these elections and seeing that your families and your neighbors are registered and ready to vote. Participate in all the civic activities of your community.

Your labor movement has gone away beyond struggling for its existence, struggling for a higher standard of living. You have to realize that and you have to participate in that community life in order to really increase and better your standard of living.—A. J. Dunn

Picket City Hall In Kansas City

Kansas City, Mo.—AFL pickets circled City Hall here for two days after the Brotherhood of Painters accused the city administration of using competitive prison labor.

Sec. Perrin D. McElroy of the Building and Construction Trades Council said prisoners at the municipal farm were being used to paint the city's tuberculosis hospital. Setting up of the picketline resulted in the walkout of carpenters and four maintenance engineers employed at City Hall.

The pickets were removed after a conference between City Manager L. P. Cookingham and union officials. The city promised to limit use of municipal farm prisoners to the farm. Nineteen other grievances were brought up by various AFL unions and will be the subject of future conferences.

A Leopard Doesn't Change His Spots!

As Conservative member for Oldham—elected in 1900—Mr. Churchill revolted as soon as Joseph Chamberlain's formula (protectionist) made its appearance. And this is how he talked when he wanted to become a Liberal to fight that formula:

"The Tory party is the party of the vested interests — corruption at home, aggression to cover it up abroad, the trickery of tariff jugglery, the tyranny of the party machine, sentiment by the bucketful, patriotism by the imperial pint, the open hand at the public exchequer, dear food for the millions, and cheap labor for the millionaire."

Is "Welfare" An Evil Word?

Reactionaries in every country are bitterly opposed to any measures that would improve the general welfare of all the people. Social security measures are frowned upon. With scorn they are referred to as "the Welfare State."

In an article in the "Survey", a magazine of social science, Professor John Gillin, of North Carolina University, asks what is wrong with the word 'welfare'?

The article ironically discusses the attempts of former President Hoover and other reactionaries to label Truman's program as "the welfare state." That term, along with "statism", is being used by Taft-Republicans as their vote-catching slogan for the 1950 elections.

"It may be very pedantic of me," Professor Gillin says, "but I am confused by the attempts to pervert the word 'welfare' into a term for opprobrium.

"What is wrong with the word 'welfare'? The Standard Dictionary of the English language defines 'welfare' as 'prosperity', and as 'exemption from pain or discomfort.'

"Are Mr. Hoover and the others trying to tell us that they are against prosperity? Perhaps they are plugging for 'pain and discomfort.' If that is the case, why don't they come out and say so in plain words?

"The founders of the Repblic apparently thought that 'welfare' meant something fairly desirable. Right in the preamble of the Constitution they boldly wrote:

"'We the people of the United States, in order to promote . . . the general welfare . . . do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America.'

"And, in Section 8, Paragraph 1, they gave Congress power to lay and collect taxes for various purposes, among which is clearly stated the purpose 'to provide for the general welfare.'

"From this," Gillin says, "you would think that 'welfare' had a pretty honorable history and respectable background. At least, for 162 years welfare has seemed to be a good thing. But now a former president and others are asking us to believe that welfare is somehow bad.

"Is the Constitution to be amended to strike out that awful word?

"Next they will be telling us that they are 'agin' heaven because we should really think of it as the other place. That would be a hell of a note."

Becoming More Civilized

Time Magazine, Nov. 21:

"As director of Canada's Government Travel Bureau and chief drumbeater for tourist attractions, peppery Daniel Leo Dolan, 54, would like to please everyone. But recently he has been gettig an increasing number of complaints on a highly touchy subject: anti-Semitism at vacation resorts.

"In Ottawa last week Dolan popped up before 45 delegates to the fourth annual Dominion-Provincial Tourist Conference with a fistful of resort pamphlets. Somewhere on each appeared a tell-tale phrase, 'restricted clientele' or its equivalent. Said Dolan: 'We are not trying to tell a man how to run his hotel, but as government agencies we should not be parties to this sort of thing.' . . .

"To fight such practices, Dolan had a concrete suggestion: Dominion and provincial travel bureaus should refuse to handle any promotional material indicating discrimination. The delegates agreed, unanimously adopting a resolution against 'the use of the word "restricted" or "selected clientele" in tourist resort folders, on letterheads and in advertising'."

Wages Remain At 1942 Levels, But Prices, Well - - -!

Rising prices have wiped out every gain made by workers in the past six years. That blunt fact was underlined recently in "Labor's Monthly Survey," the research organ of the A. F. of L.

From 1939 to 1942, before wage freezing regulations went into effect, workers made noticeable advances in "real" earnings, the A. F. of L. said. Thereafter, the "Little Steel" formula halted boosts in wage rates. The "take-home" pay kept rising, but only because of longer hours worked.

After the war, overtime earnings vanished and "take-home" pay took a nose-dive. Wage increases obtained since then have lagged behind living costs the Federation said.

"What remains to the average worker is the real weekly wage he had in the fall of 1942," the report added.

The personnel manager was interviewing a man for a job.

"How long did you work in the other place?"

"Sixty-five years."

"How old are you?"

"I'm 40."

"How could you work 65 years when you are only 40 years old?"

"Overtime."

Street Corners

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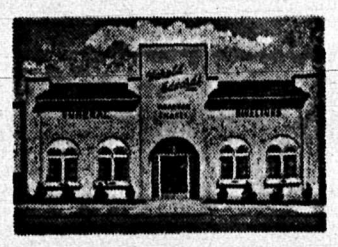

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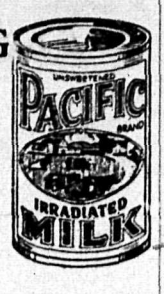

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PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

U.N. Cost-of-Living Survey

Ottawa.—The cost-of-living index has risen faster in Canada than in any other country in the Commonwealth in the four post-war years. The United Nations' August bulletin of statistics gives cost of living figures for 65 nations or dependencies throughout the world. Included in these are eight nations and two colonies in the Commonwealth. Their increases from 1945 to 1949 were as follows:

Increase in Cost of Living in Commonwealth Countries since 1945

1. Ireland	8%
2. United Kingdom	11%
3. New Zealand	11%
4. Ceylon	16%
5. South Africa	17%
6. Northern Rhodesia	18%
7. Southern Rhodesia	20%
8. Australia	22%
9. India	30%
10. Canada	35%

Since the early part of this year Canada's cost-of-living index has taken another jump, which is not indicated by these figures. The addition of 10 other countries in Europe and the western hemisphere gives a broader picture of price movements in a large part of the world.

Increases in Cost of Living in 20 Countries Since 1945

1. Norway	3%
2. Denmark	6%
3. Switzerland	6%
4. Ireland	8%
5. Sweden	10%
6. United Kingdom	11%
7. New Zealand	11%
8. Ceylon	16%
9. South Africa	17%
10. Northern Rhodesia	18%
11. Southern Rhodesia	20%
12. Australia	22%
13. Netherlands	23%
14. India	30%
15. U. S. A.	32%
16. Canada	35%
17. Uruguay	40%
18. Brazil	57%
19. Chile	98%
20. France	355%

Increases for the U.S.S.R. are not made public and hence are not given in the U.N. publication. It is significant to note that five of the first seven listed above are democratic socialist countries.

Membership in British Trade Unions Doubled in Last Ten Years

In the last 10 years the combined membership of unions affiliated to Britain's Trade Union Congress met at Brindlington, England, in 1939, there were about 4,670,000 trade unionists in 217 unions. This year there were approximately 7,800,000 members in the 187 unions attached to the TUC. As these membership totals relate to the beginning of the calendar year 1949, the figures do not take account of increases gained by the unions in the last ten months, which mean there were at least 8,000,000 represented in the delegations at this year's Congress.

"Then you will find that "nation" is a name
And boundries are things that don't exist,
That Labor's bondage, world-wide, is the same,
And ONE the enemy it must resist."

(Ralph Chaplin).

Labor Unions Stopped Depressions

To American labor unions must go the credit for halting the depression which threatened for a time to plunge us into the doldrums. This is true because the unions blocked wage cutting and because splendid levels of union wages gave the public the necessary buying power to sustain business. Only the buying power of the working people prevented a much more serious slump.

The Monthly Labor Review, published by the American Federation of Labor, points out that fantastic prices have, in some categories, come to a more reasonable level. The one exception is automobiles; they are still exorbitantly priced.

"The recession, though mild in general, was so sharp in spots that it might easily have caused a very serious business collapse had it not been for strong counteracting forces within the economy," the AFL Labor Review says. "Drastic farm price declines were stopped by government price support before they could cause a general price collapse.

"Workers' buying power was maintained, and the large and steady buying forced factories to increase production rapidly after the drastic cuts and layoffs of the first seven months. By late November over half of those laid off were back at work.

"Business observers generally agree that our country's quick recovery from the recession was due mainly to sustained consumer buying. Workers' purchasers are the mainstay of the consumer market. Workers' buying power has held up for four reasons: (1) Union agreements prevented wage cuts; (2) Small declines in living costs raised buying power; (3) Unemployment compensation gave partial income to those laid off; (4) Unions negotiated wage increases for millions of workers which helped to offset income losses from unemployment."—Washington Teamster.

A New School Every Thirty-six Hours

A new school was brought into use every 36 hours in Britain during the three months from June to October last. This has just been revealed by the Minister of Education, Mr. George Tomlinson. He said that during that time 60 new school departments had been provided ready for occupation. This meant that places had been made for 36,000 pupils, representing a rate of about 400 a day.

"Trust her! You surely don't think she sould keep a secret?"
"Well, I've trusted her with other things, and she kept them!"

Monopoly Either Dies Or Grows

"The mills of the gods grind slowly" when it comes to combating monopoly and price fixing. Here's an example, part of which is in the news today, and part of which has never been told publicly.

The latter part is this: More than 50 years ago, two huge concerns, which furnished practically the entire supply of important industrial chemicals, got together in a secret agreement.

They divided the country into areas. In some of these areas, one of the companies was given a complete monopoly of the market. The other company got a similar monopoly in the other areas.

Of course, this arrangement was not open and obvious. If a purchaser asked for "bids" on chemicals, both companies would offer him a price. By a miraculous coincidence, however, the sale always went to the company which had the monopoly in that area. The other company always boosted its price just high enough to lose the sale.

That prevented any competition, and kept prices and profits high for both companies.

This writer does not know whether that arrangement is still in existence, but apparently it has been replaced by something bigger and better for a far larger monopoly.

One of those companies was bought out some years ago by the vast du Pont chemical combine. Du Pont also bought the controlling stock of the General Motors Company and United States Rubber Company, giant manufacturers of automobiles, trucks, tires and many other products.

Now, in an anti-trust suit, the Department of Justice charges that the du Pont-General Motors-United States Rubber "empire" is guilty of monopoly and price-fixing crimes which make the old arrangement of 50 years ago "small-time stuff."

What will the situation be 500 years from now? Judging by the record of the past half-century, and the general futility of the anti-trust laws now, monopoly and price fixing will be still bigger and stronger. — The Federated Railwayman.

Union Membership Ranges From 56 To Over Million

Washington.—Although it is generally known that the teamsters, auto workers, carpenters, and steelworkers comprise the four largest labor unions in the country, few people, union members included, could name the one with the smallest enrollment.

According to the new directory of labor unions issued by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, among 197 organizations listed, the smallest is the 50-year-old Internationtl Association of Siderographers, AFL, which has only fifty-six members in the United States and Canada.

A siderographer, the bureau explains, is one who reproduces an engraving on a steel roll and then on plates from which banknotes, securities and postage stamps are printed.

Union names tend toward long, all-inclusive names to cover the allied branches of a trade, but the one that takes all honors for length is listed as the International Association of Marble, Slate and Stone Polishers, Rubbers and Sawyers, Tile and Marble Setters, Helpers and Terrazzo Helpres, AFL.

Council To Support Boilermakers' Appeal

In reporting for the Special Committee appointed to enquire into the request by the Boilermakers' Union for assistance in an appeal against the decision which gave damages to Myron Kuzych, Delegate Hugh Bird, chairman of the committee, reported that Kuzych had been expelled bectuse of open opposition to the union, for making radio broadcasts opposing the closed shop, and had declared under oath that the union was spurious and a fake, and that he would not remain a member of the union five minutes longer than was necessary.

In outlining the history of the case, Bro. Bird pointed out that charges were levelled against Kuzych, and after trial by the union members he was expelled.

In a legal action taken by Kuzych, with seeking an appeal as provided in the union constitution, the presiding judge, Mr. Justice McFarlane, found in favor of the union. The case was then appealed by Kuzych, and the case came before Mr. Justice Whittaker some eight months later.

Justice Whittaker handed down a decision awarding Kuzych $5,000 in damages and approximately $4,000 in costs.

The committee felt that the serious part of the decision was the question raised by Justice Whittaker: "Ought a trade union which has a closed shop agreement with an employer under any circumstances (other than for non-payment of dues) have the right to expel a member?" This was a serious question for the entire trade union movement, the committee felt, as it throws doubt on the right of unions with a closed shop to discipline its members and to determine who may or may not become or remain members of the union.

The delegates to the Council endorsed the recommendation of the committee that full moral and financial assistance be given to the Marine Workers' and Boilermakers' Industrial Union, Local No. 1, in their appeal against this decision.

The delegates also unanimously endorsed the recommendation that "we endorse and uphold the principal of any trade union retaining the right under their constitution and bylaws to determine who shall and who shall not become a member of said union."

A donation of $10 was voted to help finance the appeal.

A sign on a stocking counter reads "These Nylons Will Look Better on Your Legs Than on Our Hands."

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Labor Unions Deplore Job Color Line

Legislation agtinst racial discrimination in hiring and firing was urged by the Vancouver and District Trades and Labor Council (AFL-CIO).

Delegates endorsed a resolution from the North Shore Council of Women asking for an act to make it unlawful for an employer to fire or refuse to hire anyone on racial grounds.

Nominations Opened For 1950 Executive

Nominations for 1950 elections to the Executive of the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council were opened at the second meeting of the Council in January. Nominations will be reopened at the February 7th meeting at which elections will be held.

The following were nominated:

Nominated to oppose re-election of President Birt Showler, Teamsters, were: Tom Alsbury, Teachers; Sandy Bevis, Typographical Union; Jack Stevenson, Carpenters, and William Black, Civic Employees. No one was nominated to oppose Alderman R. K. Gervin for secretary-treasurer.

For vice-president, Tom Alsbury was nominated for re-election, and George Johnston, Meat Cutters, as opposition.

Other nominations: Warden, J. Stevenson; statistician, Jack Eaves, Painters and Decorators; organizational committee, Tom Parkin, Fishermen; legislation committee, Sandy Bevis; press committee, H. I. Bird, Firemen; grievance committee, R. W. Cormack, Street Railwaymen.

"I'm making sure the whole crew sees it!"

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Union Label Corner

The officers and members of the Vancouver Union Label Trades Council join with all other members of the international labor movement throughout the United States and Canada in mourning the sad loss of Brother I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department at Washington. His sudden death on December 17th was a great shock to all who knew him.

He was one of labor's outstanding leaders, specializing in the work of promoting the recognition and patronage of the Union Label.

He was a past president of the Cigarmakers' International Union, and since his election as secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department in 1934, he worked tirelessly to promote and extend its work. He pioneered in many branches of activity. He sponsored the idea of forming Women's Auxiliaries, and worked hard to bring labor and management closer together through joint support of union-made products and services.

Brother Ornburn contributed more to the development of the Union Industries shows than any other individual and was working on plans for next year's show to be held in Philadelphia at the time of his death. He was popular and effective and a speaker and radio commentator.

Vancouver Union Label Council will long remember the co-operation and advice so willingly given at all times by Brother Ornburn.

Letters sent out from our council to other Union Label Committees and Leagues in Canada suggesting ways and means of keeping up the work of educating trade unionists to become more union label conscious, as well as for the exchange of ideas that will assist in the formation of a Union Label Trades Department in Canada, have brought many replies from Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal, Regina and other centres. There is no doubt that a greater enthusiasm now exists for the work of union label committees than ever before in Canada. One reason for the lack of progress in the past has been the failure to have groups all over the country working in close touch with each other. There is now a general feeling that by organized effort on a national basis, much more can be done this year and in future years to publicize the value of the union label to all consumers. Many who have written to us have suggested the idea of holding a union label week in Canada during the week of Labor Day. We shall have more to say about this later.

Your Union Label Council in Vancouver wishes to make greater progress in 1950. This means you must help. Have your union elect its full quota of delegates to the council. Notify the secretary of their names and addresses. The Council meets on the third Friday in each month, in Hall No. 6 of the Labor Temple.

The first meeting for 1950 will be on Friday, January 20th. Delegates, please note.

Secretaries of all Local Union take note that Union Watermarked paper is now made in Canada. When ordering office supplies, demand this paper and provide jobs for Canadian workers.

Distributors are: J. B. Rolland & Sons Co., 440 St. Helen Street, Montreal, Quebec; Buntin Reid Paper Ltd., 117 Peter Street, Toronto, Ont.; Clark Bros. & Co. Ltd., 18 Charlotte Street, Winnipeg, Man.

See to it that you do not buy goods from unfair firms. By so doing you are weakening the organized labor movement and are not playing the game with the union employer.

Better wages and higher standards of living go hand in hand with the patronage of union services. Do unto others as you expect them to do unto you. Think it over.

ED. SMITH, Secretary,
Union Label Trades Council.

Building Materials Prices Go Lower

Wholesale prices of both general building materials and residential building materials were slightly lower in September than in August, according to the price indexes compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's decrease continued a gradual downward movement that has been uninterrupted for general building materials since March and for residential building materials since February this year. In each case, however, the decline from August to September was smaller than in any preceding month.

The Bureau's index of general building materials (based on 1926 = 100) eased off a half point from 198.1 for August to 197.6 for September, making a total drop of 7.8 points for the six months of steady declines since March, when the index stood at 205.4. The September figure is 2.6 points below that of a year earlier and 8.3 points below the peak of 205.9 for this index in October a year ago.

The composite index of residential building materials (based on 1935-39 = 100) eased off a tenth of a point only, from the revised standing of 226.2 for August to 226.1 for September. This brought the cumulative decline to 4.3 points from the peak of 230.4 for this index in February, but was still above the level of 221.6 for September last year.

Indexes for five of the nine principal components of the residential materials index were unchanged from August to September, while two were higher and two lower. The index for lumber and products rose slightly from 319.7 to 320.0 and for roofing materials from 184.3 to 187.3; while the paint and glass index declined from 176.7 to 171.0 tnd the index for "other" materials from 174.6 to 172.6.

BITS OF HUMOR

Someone told me about a smart cat that ate cheese and then waited at the mouse hole with baited breath.

I. M. THORNBURN GAVE LIFE TO ORGANIZED LABOR CAUSE

The sudden death of I. M. Thornburn, the secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, was a great shock to his associates and numerous other friends. He died early Saturday morning, December 17, at Cornwall Hospital, Cornwall, New York. Services were held on Tuesday in Washington, D.C.

There were many causes for the rapid ascendancy of I. M. Thornburn in the American labor movement. His unique position of strength and power could be attributed to his unswerving loyalty to his associates and to his ardent advocacy of the true principles and purposes of labor unionism. He urged a constant demand for Union Label products by members of labor unions and their families. He fully realized the great benefits to society derived when intelligent buying is coupled with collective bargaining. With his great energy and dynamic character he generated enthusiasm in others for practical, united effort of both labor and industrial leaders.

Under the leadership of Secretary-Treasurer Ornburn the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor had made more rapid progress than during any period since its establishment in 1909. That important branch of the American Federation of Labor is the clearing house in which the promotional and publicity acitvities for all Union Labels, Shop Cards and Buttons are centered.

It was through the valuable school of practical experience in labor unionism that Mr. Ornburn received his education. He was secretary of the Connecticut State Federation of Labor from 1912 to 1923. He was vice-president of the Cigarmakers' International Union of America from 1918 to 1926, when he was elected president. He served as president until January 1, 1936. From 1918 until his death he had been a delegate from the Cigarmakers International Union to the American Federation of Labor conventions.

Mr. Ornburn had been granted a leave of absence from 1930 to 1933 while he served as a member of the United States Tariff Commission. He had also been an active member on several important committees and commissions to which he was appointed by both governors of Connecticut and Presidents of the United States.

He was elected secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor in 1934 and held this position until his death.

In 1935, Mr. Ornburn introduced a resolution at the Atlantic City convention of the Union Label Trades Department to form the American Federation of Womens Auxiliaries of Labor which, in the light of today's events, is one of the most progressive steps ever taken by the American Federation of Labor.

Inspired by a powerful incentive to bring labor and management together Mr. Ornburn conceived the idea of a great national exhibition of union-made products and union services, now known as the Union Industries Show. It is the greatest event of its kind in the history of organized labor. The first one was held in Music Hall, Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1938. Mr. Ornburn was director-general of this exhibition. The labor-management exhibitions were discontinued during the war but due to a growing demand after the emergency several other shows have been held. Each one has been a sensational success. At the time of his death, Mr. Ornburn was making arrangements for the forthcoming Union Industries Show to be held in Philadelphia next May.

Several times each year Mr. Ornburn delivered addresses over a coast-to-coast network of one of the major radio broadcasting chains. After each broadcast many thousands of requests poured into headquarters for copies of his timely talks. His popularity as a speaker at various labor gatherings had increased to such an extent that he received many invitations to address various conventions, banquets and other meetings.

During World War II Mr. Ornburn was appointed by the Office of Price Administration to serve on its Labor Policy Committee. He was also a member of the Labor Advisory Committee of the Nutrition and Food Conservation Branch, War Food Administration.

Through an arrangement with union manufacturers of cigarettes, Mr. Ornburn made possible the shipment of millions of Union Label "smokes" to members of our fighting forces overseas during the emergency.

It is to be regretted that Mr. Ornburn's great work was so suddenly interrupted. His life was entirely devoted to the organized labor cause in which he sacrificed his health to advance the welfare of workers everywhere. No one could bring him to live in peace and rest when he felt that a single injustice was being done to any man or woman toiler.

Furniture Workers Get Wage Boosts

New agreements covering about 80 workers have been signed with three Vancouver furniture plants by the Furniture and Fixture Workers, Local 2533, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners (AFL-TLC).

George Bengough, special representative for the carpenters, said that the agreements are signed with the Monarch Furniture Co., Monterey Furniture Co. and Crane Furniture Co.

Main points are a uniform classification plan which brings wages in all classifications up to the highest scale, a maintenance of membership clause, and a 40-hour week.

Mr. Bengough said a conciliation board is being set up for negotiations with Fairecrest Furiture, and negotiations are continuing with Sturdybuilt Furniture Ltd.

Alex Low and Tom Dumma, of Shingle Weavers Local 2802, are attending the Northwest District Shingle Weavers' Council at Portland.

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Tommy: "What's the matter, has your girl turned you down?"

Billy: "Yes, I haven't heard from her for a week."

Tommy: "I thought she said she would write every day."

Billy: "Yes, but she didn't say to whom."

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Devaluation Hikes Living Costs For Britain's Workers

By ARTHUR DEAKIN

General Secretary of Britain's Largest Trade Union, the Transport and General Workers' Union.

London.—Once again, in time of crisis, Britain's Trades Union Congress was called upon by the United Kingdom government to advise on the best way of reaching an agreement on wages policy with industry.

The TUC general council's decision recommending a still stricter policy of voluntary wage restraint, marks a courageous attempt to give an authoritative lead to Britain's trade union movement in the critical economic situation.

This decision resulted from TUC decisions which have been taking place since the pound sterling was devalued in September, 1949.

The changed value of the pound created a new situation. The cost of living was bound to rise a few points — automatically raising those wage rates linked to the cost of living by sliding scale agreements. It was also bound to increase rank and file pressure on other unions to urge new wage claims. Any general rise in wages, salaries, or profits, however, would raise labor costs and so defeat the main object of the currency change, making Britain's goods more competitive in North American markets.

Britain's government, therefore, approached the TUC with a view to ensuring wage stability through voluntary trade union co-operation. As a result, the TUC's general council has announced a 7-point policy statement, recommending wages stabilization in relation to the cost of living.

At present, the cost of living index in Britain is 112. It is proposed that all agreed wages in industry should remain fixed for 12 months up to January 1, 1951, provided that during that time the cost of living figure does not rise as high as 118 or fall below 106. If either of these contingencies should arise collective bargaining machinery could be set in motion so that unions could claim increased wages in relation to the increased cost of living, and unions having sliding-scale agreements relating wages to the cost of living should also be entitled to claim increments due.

A 6-point rise in the cost of living would be equivalent to a 5 per cent reduction in wages.

However, the object of this policy is to stabilize prices and to prevent a rapid rise in the cost of living. At the same time, this policy preserves intact existing voluntary negotiation machinery for use in the event of a 6-point cost-of-living rise. Indeed, the policy statement insists that the existing machinery must be preserved as the only method of governing the adjustment of wages and working conditions, and maintaining the authority of the trade unions..

THE OLD MULE SKINNER

Contributed by Alex Densmore of South Wilmington, Ill., the following verses were inspired by an aging miner, "Davey Dye," now past 80, who lives alone in a cottage in Sparland, Ill., and loves to pass the time swapping mine stories with "all the other boys".

—o—

Way back in '90, even after and ere,
There was a mine mule skinner without a peer.
Davey Dye was the "skinner" and in many a mine
He drove any mule and pulled his trips on time.

His deep bass voice blared out "Gee!" and then "Haw!"
Through "miners and puddlers" tucked deep in his jaw.
Carried a driver's whip for only a bluff,
'Cause he loved mules and to them never was rough.

Daye Dye pulled coal when it wasn't a snap,
Yet always had a smile with his cheery "Giddy-ap!"
Though every day brought troubles and pains anew
He was the life of the party after the whistle blew.

THE TAXPAYERS' LAMENT

Tax his head and tax his hide (let him walk while taxes ride).
Tax his house and tax his lands;
Tax the blisters on his hands.
Tax his auto, tax his gas;
Tax the road that he must pass.
Tax the payroll, tax the sale,
Tax his hard-earned paper kale.
Tax his pipe, tax his smoke,
(He'll find government is no joke).
Tax the water, tax the air,
Tax the sunlight, if you dare.
Tax the living, tax the dead;
Tax the unborn ere they're fed.
Tax their coffins, tax their shrouds.
Tax their souls beyond the clouds.
Tax them all and tax them well—
Tax them to the gates of hell.
—Author Unknown.

FLING'S FINISH

A newspaperman named Fling
Could make "copy" from any old thing.
But the copy he wrote
Of a five-dollar note
Was so good he is now in Sing Sing!

A KILLING JOB!

"Do you mean to tell me," said the judge, "that you murdered that poor old woman for a paltry three dollars?"

"Well, judge you know how it is. Three bucks here and three bucks there. It soon adds up."

PRINTING LESSON

Doctor: "Why do you have A-58445 tattooed on your back?"

Patient: "That's not tattooed, that is where my wife ran into me while I was opening the garage doors."

The Ingrate—An old gentleman tumbled over a five-barred gate just in time to save himself from an angry bull in the pasture. "You brute!" he spluttered, shaking his fist at the infuriated animal, "and I've been a vegetarian all my life!"

"Think you could slip a few clauses into a contract I'm negotiating with the union?"

Green-Meany See World-Wide Fight On Poverty, Reds

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN

New York Correspondent AFL News Service

New York.—Pres. William Green said that organization of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in London will eventually mean "the lifting of standards of wages and working conditions in all democratic countries and therefore will be of great benefit to American workers."

He made his statement in a shipboard press conference on the Queen Mary, which brought back the AFL president as well as George Meany, secretary-treasurer; Charles J. McGowan, president of the Boilermakers Union; W. C. Doherty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, and George Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, all AFL vice-presidents.

It was a triumphant return for the AFL leaders whose negotiations with other national trade union movements had averted any calamitous rifts and had led to the establishment of a democratic world labor federation with representation in 53 nations and able to speak in the name of 49,750,000 workers.

Working in close harmony with the AFL officials were the spokesmen for the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Two of their delegates, CIO Vice President Allan Haywood and David MacDonald, secretary-treasurer of the United Steelworkers of America, returned on the same boat and participated in the joint press conference with the AFL spokesmen.

"The two delegations acted unitedly," said President Green. "I can truthfully say that there is real international unity betwen both groups bcause we agreed so thoroughly on all proposals. We are both satisfied with the work done, and the sound actions taken."

Secretary Meany stated that "the kind of unity we have achieved on the international front should help achieve unity between the AFL and CIO on the domestic front."

Secretary Meany said that the international confederation would make possible " a real fight against communist influence the world over." He said:

"The fight against communism will go on, through the international confederation of free trade unions, right inside the iron curtain countries. There were many delegates at the London conference from Soviet-occupied lands and we intend to maintain liaison with the democratic elements that remain in those iron curtain countries."

Secretary Meany also declared that one of the most important steps taken by the conference was "the action against dictator Franco which should be of great encouragement to Spanish workers who are fighting fascism."

The delegation agreed that the biggest job would be to initiate real support for the "point four," bold new program, to aid foreign countries raise their living standards with U. S. help and know-how, and it was President Green who disclosed that wide co-operation had been pledged in the international confederation to a program to implement point four.

A meeting of the confederation's executive board is to be convened in the next few months when application for consultative status will be made to the United Nations.

PAPA KNOWS BEST

A farmer whose clock had run down was sending his boy to town to get the correct time.

But, Pa, I can't bring the correct time. I have no watch."

"What do you want a watch for? If you can't remember, write it down on a piece of paper."

LIKE A BARGAIN SALE

A young couple asked the parson to marry them immediately following the Sunday morning service. When the time came, the minister arose to say:

"Will those who wish to be united in the holy bonds of matrimony please come forward?"

There was a great stir as 13 women and one man approached the altar.

LOOKING BACKWARD

Enoch had invited Joe for a ride on the back of his new motorcycle. After they had gone a few miles, Enoch asked Joe how he liked it.

"All right," said Joe, "but the wind is catching my chest."

So Enoch stopped. "Take your overcoat off, Joe and put it on back to front; that will protect your chest a bit, and I'll button it up at the back."

They restarted, and after a while Enoch asked Joe if he was warmer. No reply. Joe wasn't there. Enoch turned the machine around and went back until he saw a crowd, and there was Joe, lying motionless.

Anxiously Enoch asked one of the crowd, "How is he?"

"I can't make it out," said the bystander, "He ain't spoke since we twisted his head the right way around."

Happy New Year!

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25 West 49th Avenue Vancouver, B. C.

Happy New Year to the Trade Union Movement from

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Building Trades Council Notes

By H. W. WATTS

Brother Guthrie of the Carpenters' union reports the following firms are signed up with the union: C. B. Riley Construction Co., Thrift Construction Company and D. M. Dixon.

* * *

Newly elected officers for the Tile Setters Helpers Union No. 78 are James Urquhart, president; Robert Murphy, vice-president; Jack Marshall, recording sec'y.; Geo. Didsbury, financial secretary, and K. S. Kennedy, treasurer and business agent.

* * *

A. J. Allen, secretary of the Glaziers and Glass Workers Union, reports the Model Glass Co. and the Belluz Structural Glass Co. are now signed up with the union.

* * *

Reporting for the recently organized Terrazzo Mechanics Union No. 4, Secretary G. R. Chappell says that the Darlington, Haskins Co. Ltd., Hingley Co. Ltd., The O'Neil Co. Ltd., and the Kingsway Tile and Terazzo Co. employees are all in the union.

* * *

Painters and Decorators union reports the following new firms are now under agreement: A. Greenall, Insul-Mastic & Building Products Ltd., and E. S. Longman.

* * *

Sheet Metal Workers Union reports that the Pacific Heating and Sheet Metal Co. of 1120 Kingsway have changed their name to the Curtis Heating and Sheet Metal Company.

* * *

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Union report the signing up of the Dukes and Bradshaw Plumbing and Heating Company of North Vancouver, and Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co. Ltd., for temperature control work. Geo. Downing, Asbestos Coverers, has been removed from their list.

* * *

Brother J. Bannon, business agent of the New Westminster Carpenters Union, says that Ward and Son operates under a union agreement.

* * *

Business agent Ernie Cook of the Structural Ironworkers Union reports A. W. Lundy of Victoria has signed up with the union.

Pipe Line Work Union

Gas and Oil Pipe line work from Alberta to the Great Lakes will be done by union labor. Agreements have already been signed by the Plumbers Union, the Engineers Union and the Building Laborers Union. Negotiations with the other trades who will be on the job is also taking place.

The line coming to Vancouver will also be done by our trades, as negotiations for this work are almost completed.

* * *

Geo. Bengough, reporting for the Resilient Section of the Floorlayers' Union, reports the following new firms signed up: Hippo Finishers and Floor Sanding Co., Lay-Rite Floors, J. W. Hussey and the Durra-Foam Rug Service.

* * *

Secretary Finlayson of the Lathers' Union reports C. Brundage of North Vancouver and R. G. Champion of Vancouver signed up. G. Evoy has changed his address to 4045 Cambridge St., North Burnaby.

* * *

Alex Dorland of Electrical Workers reports the following firms signed up with the union: Cassidy Electric Co., Domino Electric, and Ace Electric have changed their address to 546 Powell St. Monarch Electric are no longer on the union list.

* * *

Brother A. W. Scott of the Engineers' Union reports the Le Beau Cartage Contracting Ltd. and Coast Quarries Ltd. signed up.

* * *

Reporting for the Building Material Truck Drivers' Union, Brother Bonnell says the following firms have been signed up: B.C. Concrete Co., Fleetway Trucking Service, Midland Construction Co. The B. and H. Cartage Co. are no longer listed.

* * *

James Walker, business agent of the Sheet Metal Workers' Union, reports that the following firms now operate under the Built-up Roofers, Damp and Waterproof Section of the union; Albion Roofing and Insulation; R. D. Bristowe; Central Ssheet Metal; Campbell & Grill; Empire Sheet Metal; Hingley Lea & Meagher Ltd.; Hudson Heating and Sheet Metal; Seaboard Sheet Metal; Smith Sheet Metal; Westminster Sheet Metal; Westeel Sheet Metal; Woodwards' Roofing.

Building Trades Hold Meet in Bellingham

(By Delegate H. W. WATTS)

In spite of traffic tie-ups on account of snow drifts created by a 70 mile an hour gale, one hundred and twenty eight delegates attended the semi-annual meeting of the Washington State Building and Construction Trades convention held in Bellingham, January 14th and 15th.

Harry J. Ames, the Executive Secretary, acted as chairman of the meeting and the business was conducted in fast time. The delegates stood in silence for one minute in memory of Brother Jack Hurley, International Representative of the Structural Ironworkers' Union, who died recently.

Resolutions Adopted

Among the resolutions adopted was one asking for the complete coverage of all workers in the state, for unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation.

Coverage of all workers for workmen's compensation before and after working hours while on the project, or on their way to and from work.

Asking that the Industrial Insurance Appeal Board be invited to meet with the Executive Board of the Washington State Federation of Labor to discuss vital points in policy.

Asking that Industrial Insurance payments be speeded up to workers who were employed on jobs in Alaska and have moved to other locations.

Asking that Industrial Insurance and Unemployment Insurance be extended to include work done for charitable organizations.

McNary Dam Project

The fraternal delegate from the Oregon Building Trades Section reported that a committee had been successful in having the workers on the McNary Dam covered by compensation while being ferried across the Columbia River. The ferry is owned by the federal government and workers who cross the river (free) in this ferry either from the Washington or Oregon side of the river are now covered by insurance while crossing the river. This action was taken because this same ferry turned over some years ago with a loss of lives.

Housing for Low Wage Workers

Delegates reported that there are some other large dam projects contemplated in Washington, Oregon and Montana; a tremendous amount of work also contemplated in Alaska and some large housing projects also in the offing. There is still a serious housing shortage in Washington and 20% of the existing houses are slums and public housing projects are needed to remove them. The federal government has agreed to take up the loss on houses that will be built for low wage workers under state, city or municipal government projects. It is also agreed that the prevailing wages must be paid on these jobs. Nine Washington cities have already made application for Federal assistance on housing projects, but it was also reported that in one city real estate companies were paying ten cents per name to persons getting names on a petition against such housing projects.

Work Prospects Good

Reports from delegates from different parts of the state showed construction work was slack on account of the weather, but prospects were very good in all sections.

Workers were advised to stay away from the Hanford Atomic project because so many workers are flocking to that construction job.

It was also reported that a church was being built in Spokane on the day labor basis, and that the trustees refused to get workmen's compensation coverage for the workers. (Churches are exempt.)

Divide and Rule

It was also reported that in one district where thet rades are covered by the usual master agreement, contractors are now trying to segregate the crafts and negotiate separately.

In Pasco the unions have entered into an agreement with the school board to pay a minimum wage of $4200 a year to construction trade workers, as well as two weeks' holiday with pay.

A report from a representative of the Federal Bureau of Apprentices stated that last year 235,000 apprentices were being trained under the direction of 65,000 joint apprenticeship committees.

Gervin Reports On Jobless Meetings

Two meetings have been held under the auspices of the Canadian Legion and Vancouver Trades and Labor Council with local M.P.'s and M.L.A.'s. Secretary Gervin reported to the delegates.

Some of the elected members had expressed disagreement with the procedure suggested to deal with the growing crisis in unemployment.

A third meeting will be held if government action is not forthcoming soon as a result of representations which have been made arising out of the meeings held to date.

Wires were sent to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Labor and Premier Byron Johnson.

The Executive Director of the Community Chest, Mr. Allen, had attended the second of the unemployment meetings.

Bro. Jacob Phillips, Civic Workers, spoke very crticially of the government in failing to deal with unemployment, particularly in that it had not sought more markets in the East.

"More markets and more exports are necessary to create jobs and help solve unemployment," he said.

Delegate T. Parkin said that unemployment is growing so serious that men have been asking for the privilege of sleeping in union halls.

"The situation is serious," he said. "Nobody in this country wants to see a return to the soup kitchens."

He felt that if the present meeting of the Advisory Employment Committee in Ottawa does not take action we should immediately call further meetings.

CITY PUBLIC WORKS UNION FAVORS CITY HANDLING OWN PUBLIC WORKS

Civic Employees' Union, Local 28, have requested support from the labor movement in efforts to have all public works done by the City Engineering Department, where possible, and that "no contracts be let out except to firms employing union labor.

The resolution was approved by the delegates of Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council.

"Labor Statesman" In Good Condition

Chairman Hugh Bird of the Press Committee reporting on the "Labor Statesman" said that the paper finances are in good condition and better than at any time in the past 25 years. Deficits incurred during the depression have been paid off.

There has been some increase in circulation. The difficulty of obtaining news from local unions still exists, the report said.

To Receive Audited Financial Statement

After its third reading, the motion instrucing the officers to provide all affiliates with a mimeographed copy of the semi-annual report of the secretary-treasurer was passed with the necessary two-thirds majority.

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New Dominion Record Set By Building Trades

Carpenters, bricklayers and a variety of other workers combined to add $1,665,561,000 worth of new building to Canada in 1948—an all-time high.

This was reported recently in a review of 1948 building activities by the Bureau of Statistics.

All provinces joined in creating the construction industry's record, ranging from a low increase over 1947 of 25 per cent in Quebec to a high of 43 per cent on the prairies.

Transport

In addition, private building done by Canada's railways and telegraph companies added up to another $414,934,000—bringing total construction to $2 billion.

Construction—houses, apartments, warehouses, garages, grain elevators and other kindred structures — contributed 65 per cent of the total work undertaken by an army of more than 280,000 workers.

They surpassed the previous record of construction, established in 1947, when the industry did $1,256,536,000 worth of work and doubled the value of construction undertaken in 1946.

Building construction was valued at $1,088,000,000 — up 30 per cent from 1947. Engineering works were valued at $577,573,000—up 38 per cent.

Ontario Leads

As in other years, Ontario led the field in the 1948 record. The province did $682,466,000 worth of construction—41 per cent of the total; Quebec second with $421,476,000, and British Columbia third with $190,040,000.

Other provinces:

Prince Edward Island, $5,424,000; Nova Scotia, $73,507,000; New Brunswick, $51,590,000; Manitoba, $82,230,000; Saskatchewan, $49,380,000; Alberta, $109,448,000.

Our New Year's Message!

Canadian Labor Reports — 717

Safe Construction, Prevention of Fire Hazards Upheld

Chicago and Cook County Building and Construction Trades Council desires to express its grateful thanks and appreciation for the splendid support we received in the contest for safe construction in Chicago. As a result, the unconscionable effort of a group of manufacturers to degrade building standards and exploit the people of Chicago has been completely frustrated.

The plan to divest local communities of their inherent legislative power and authority over local building regulations was conceived in Wall Street and promoted by an organization financed for this purpose with an initial contribution of $650,000 from a small group of national manufacturers of building products.

Building codes in the past have always been the prerogative of the communities they affected because the type of buildings erected in a community affects the entire community. Flimsy construction even remotely removed from good neighborhoods will nevertheless cause increased fire insurance rates for the entire community because of the resulting fire losses and will cause higher taxes for the entire community because of the necessity of maintaining more fire equipment to safeguard against conflagration.

The effort to remove fire protection requirements from small homes would have subjected the working people of Chicago, the greatest segment of whom are members of the Chicago Federation of Labor, to unbridled exploitation by the manufacturers of hazardous building materials. National Fire Protection Association figures show that most of the 600,000 fires that occur annually in the United States occur in single family dwellings and yet these manufacturers, acting through organizations under their control, desired to remove all fire resistive protection from small homes.

Denham Snarls Building Trades in United States

The National Labor Relations Board and General Counsel Robert N. Denham have now snarled labor relations in the building and construction trades industry beyond any hope of repair under the Taft-Hartley law.

With the board and Denham hopelessly at odds over administration of the law in the industry, various federal courts have compounded the chaos with a series of conflicting opinions.

Must Repeal Act

Richard J. Gray, president of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department, said that the only certain way to end this snafu and prevent the industry from grinding to a halt in reams of red tape is to repeal the Taft-Hartley law outright.

"It's the greatest mess of legalistic confusion ever perpetrated," Mr. Gray said.

The AFL unions and principal contractors had asked Mr. Denham and the National Labor Relations Board to issue a blanket administrative order exempting the industry from the Taft-Hartley law. AFL pointed out that Mr. Denham and the board had been unable to conduct the union shop elections which they had requested and to which they were entitled. Yet, the AFL said Mr. Denham and the board are prosecuting the unions for alleged violations of portions of the act which Mr. Denham and the board have failed to administer.

Farce or Low?

Denham anounced at a December public hearing that he would not hold any union shop elections in the industry. Board Chairman Paul M. Herzog asked Mr. Denham how he could do that. Didn't Denham know, Herzog asked, that the federal courts had just ruled that the board cannot ignore or fail to enforce any portion of the law?

The next act in the farce is now being written. The only happy ending possible is for Congress to repeal outright the Taft-Hartley law which is daily becoming more expensive, onerous and futile than any statute since prohibition.

1950 To Be Boom Building Year in U. S.

The year 1950 will be a boom year in construction with the record $19 billion figure of 1949 being equaled this year, according to forecasts by government construction experts.

Basing their estimates on incomplete figures for 1949 and plans for 1950, the Departments of Commerce and Labor issued a joint prediction near the end of the year saying that 1950 would be another record breaker.

The year will be another period of high level construction in housing, with starts topping the 900,000 mark, which will be 37,000 less than the figure for 1949 and 31,000 less than 1948, which was another record year.

Under the new National Hospital Program there will be a sharp increase in institutional building.

Private construction will show definite increases, government statisticians say. Utility companies, except gas works, will build fewer new buildings or additions. Highway building will reach $1,900,000,000 in 1950, it is predicted.

The couples most likely to succeed are on the homely side.

1949

The Teamsters' Joint Council paid out the following benefits during 1949:

Paid Doctors on account of sickness of members in our Medical Aid Fund: $35,916.95.

Paid members who were off work through non-occupational accident or sickness: $9,340.27.

Paid beneficiaries of members who died: $15,300.00.

Our members received in wages: $12,211,695.00.

The Teamsters' Locals are trade unions only, not affiliated with any "ism" party, and none of the officers are members of any political party or follow any "isms", just Trade Unionists working on behalf of all the members.

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1949 a Record Year For Construction in U.S.

All returns are not in, but 1949 was a record year in building, a joint statement from the Departments of Commerce and Labor issued in December said.

The record year in dollar volume in construction was assured when final returns for November were compiled. The December figure will be announced some time this month.

By the end of November new construction put in place totaled $17.7 billion which was 2 per cent higher than the figure for the same period in 1948. The November construction total was more than $1.7 billion and while it was less by 8 per cent than the October 1949 figure, it was 6 per cent above the November figure for the previous year.

The general firmness of construction activity so late in the building season was "one of the strong points in the national economy," the joint government report said.

While private construction was down by 5 per cent, public building was 25 per cent above for the period. Non farm residential building for the period was down and this brought the total for the year under the corresponding total for 1948.

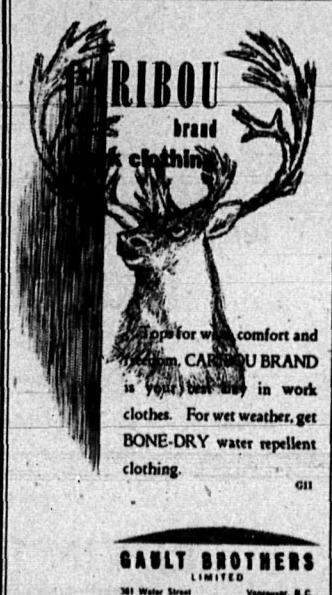
Construction activity on most types of private non-residential structures equalled or exceeded October levels which is a contrast to the usual seasonal decline in the fall.

Wednesday Law Breakers Criticized

In a strongly worded resolution, delegates to the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council denounced the action of the Hudson's Bay Company in opening their store on Wednesday during the Christmas period, in flagrant definance of provincial and civic bylaws. The motion was unanimously carried.

BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

In the Ozarks there are some strange ideas as to just what intoxication really is. In a village one Sunday, a man lay in the middle of the street in the broiling sun. "He's drunk, I'd better lock him up," the sheriff said, sympathetically. "No, he ain't drunk," a woman interrupted, "I just seen his fingers move!"



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Pulp, Sulphite Workers Get Wage Increases

Reporting on behalf of Pulp and Sulphite Workers, Local 433, Delegate O. Braaten reported that a Concilittion Board had awarded his union 7c an hour for male employees and 6c an hour for female employees, retroactive to August 1, 1949. The union had accepted this award but at the time of his report the company had not made its reply.

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News of the Month

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

By GEO. R. BENGOUGH

We can not help but note:

Two news items published simultaneously in Vancouver papers on Monday, January 16th, 1950, were not missed by members of the United Brotherhood.

One item was pleasing to read and concerned the three day session of the Canadian Construction Association held in Montreal.

This Association at the close of their conference predicted "That 1950 will be a good year for building in Canada."

The reader is aware that as long as construction in Canada tends to maintain a high level the conditions of the country as a whole are fairly good; not only the building trade workers benefit, but everyone participates in the benefits of this activity.

We would just like to mention in passing that the winters slow up, and, in some places, stop construction activity, which of course is reflected in many places.

The building trades workers wage is still not adequate to carry him over a period of two or three months' of idleness and the carpenters, being the greatest number, suffer the most.

It is not reasonable to expect a man with a trade to be placed on a shelf until the winter is over, then to expect him to work for a wage that will not allow him to save anything for the winter months or the periods between jobs.

In the meanttime we trust the prediction of the Canadian Construction Association is a correct one for 1950 and that in the estimates they tender they are allowing for a better remuneration to the men who perform the work and have to live the year around.

The other news item has made more than the building mechanics stop and think.

We are quoting from the press of January 16th, 1950, headed "Lumber Prices Jump". The item deals with the common lumber prices increased by $5.00 and $6.00 per thousand board feet. We quote again: "The increase is a levelling off with the U.S. prices; it should have gone into effect two months ago" (end of quote).

Now that is the way to obtain an increase. No bargaining with anyone. No Government Boards to hamstring you. No concern as to where the money wil come from. Just announce, the increase now takes effect. Bang!

What happens to the contractors' story of fixed prices already given for work six months hence. Nothing. The builder and the contractor pay it and say nothing; they were not consulted anyway.

The lumber kings know what they are doing or at least how to ride it through. There is no doubt that when the carpenters ask for an increase in wages to help compensate for time lost, and a desire for a better living, they will be told not to raise the building costs any higher.

Maybe we should mention the carpenters also desire to "level" their "prices" with their brothers in the United States.

The B.C. Carpenters are practical people and also modest people and are willing to reach their goal step by step; the step this year is only 15c increase.

Furniture and Fixture Workers No. 2533

Four out of five furniture firms that the assistance of the Labor Relations Board has been applied for, have signed the 1950 agreement.

All the five firms agreed to the simplified classification plan as proposed by Mr. J. Muirhead, Conciliation Officer. In as much as it now establishes uniformity of classifications based on the highest prevailing rates previously in effect, this was acceptable to Local No. 2533. This was good work on the part of the Conciliation Officer, Mr. J. Muirhead, and we believe it is appreciated both by the employers and the union. The four firms signing the agreement were: Crane Furniture Ltd., Monarch Furniture Ltd., Monterey Furniture Ltd., and Sturdybilt Furniture. One firm has refused to sign, the Faircrest Furniture Ltd., and while they agree to the uniform classification plan, they have taken exception to the Maintenance of Membership clause.

This stand on the part of Faircrest Furniture has necessitated the appointment of a Conciliation Board. This Board has not been able to get started owing to the employers' nominee, Mr. J. H. Ruddock, being ill at the present time.

On the fixture and millwork side a full report will be ready for the members at their next meeting in February.

Shinglers and Roofers No. 2346

The January meeting, held Thursday the 19th, decided that the policy of Local No. 2346 will be that all members are to strictly observe the hourly rate.

This will mean that no member can quote prices of so much a square for laying shingles unless he is a bona fide contractor and employs only members of the Local.

Local No. 2346 has appealed to the carpenter locals to ask their Shop Stewards to check every shingler on their job and make sure he is wearing the current union button.

Local No. 2346 Shinglers & Roofers is a small local and at present is faced with many obstacles in the effort to obtain complete organization.

Patent roofing has made it so that a great number of unreliable people are attempting to do roof work and will do this work for any price.

The only way the public can be sure of a good job is by employing those who have the experience and are in a position to state that a good job will be done.

Members of Local No. 2346 are all experienced men and are proud of the good work they accomplish. They have qualified members who do nothing but red cedar shingle work, and others who are equally qualified and who do the patent shingle work.

The members of Local No. 2346 are employed on practically all jobs where the contractors and the builders want a good job, but there is still lots of work being performed in a cheap manner.

The next time you see a shingler ask him if he belongs to the union.

Lumber and Sawmill Local No. 2968

This local recently completed their negotiations with Sweeney Cooperage Ltd. The Shop Stewards participated in all the meetings with the Company along with representatives of the Brotherhood.

Three unusually long sessions resulted in the employer finally agreeing to the Union Shop Clause and is to the effect that all employees after 30 days must be members of Local No. 2968.

The work week is now definitely set out as of Monday to Friday for 8 hours per day and all other time worked to be on an overtime basis. Any statutory holidays worked shall be on the basis of double time. Also Christmas Day shall be recognized as a holiday and paid for at the prevailing rate to the employees.

The bargaining committee made every effort to obtain the full requests of the local, and while the committee was not satisfied with the fintl offers made, nevertheless felt that they had obtained all they could at this time.

Interior Carpenters Hold Joint Meeting

Delegates representing Kimberley Local No. 1719, Trail No. 2474, Nelson No. 2458, Penticton No. 1696, Kelowna No. 1370, Vernon No. 1346, Kamloops No. 1540 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (A.F.L.) met in joint session in the Incola Hotel, Penticton, on Saturday, Jan. 7th, to review past activities and to unify their future policy and program.

The meeting recorded a phenomenal growth in union membership in the Interior. as well as a considerable improvement in wages and working conditions, resulting from a combination of intensive organizational work, and a high level of employment in the construction industry in the war and post-war years.

It was pointed out, however, that wages are still from 15c to 20c per hour less than Coast rates, and the delegates were emphatic in the opinion that no justifiable economic or moral grounds exist for such a situation.

In view of the fact that all existing collective agreements entered into by the carpenters are due to expire on March 1st, the meeting registered its unanimous determination to standardize wages, hours, and working conditions of all carpenters in B.C. during forthcoming negotiations. In line with this policy, proposed changes have been mailed to the scores of construction firms involved, and a standard agreement, based on these desired changes, is now being drafted.

The delegates also gave their attention to the future prospects in the construction industry, and concern was expressed regarding the critical unemployment situation which has developed in recent months, all of which cannot be attributed to reasons of a seasonal nature. Keen disappointment was felt at the failure to implement the much-publicized government "shelf" of useful public works projects to cushion any serious falling-off in the level of private employment, and it was further felt that the tremendous backlog of vitally necessary construction of improved school and hospital facilities, as well as the nation-wide need for housing, made widespreal unemployment in the construction industry unnecessary and unjustifiable.

Confidence was registered, nevertheless, by the delegates, in the essential vitality and soundness of the [illegible] economy, and pessimistic conclusions regarding the inevitability of the "boom-and bust" pattern of pre-war years, now prevalent in some quarters, were categorically repudiated.

It was the unanimous opinion of the meeting that the greatest disservice which could be rendered by any group in respect to national morale, the possibilities of future growth, and an expanding and prosperous economy, was an attitude of defeatism and a lack of faith in the potential greatness of Canada and its people.

Delegates present included: J. Ogbourne, W. Timms, W. Langmead, G. Ross, C. L. Beagle, E. Olson, N. Willychuk, W. F. Mahoney, and B. Sauder. W. J. Baker, District Representative of the Brotherhood, who had arranged the meeting was also present. J. Ogbourne occupied the chair, and W. F. Mahoney acted as recording secretary.

WM. F. MAHONEY,
District Representative,
Trades & Labor Congress of Canada.

SAT A DIZZY PACE

Maintenance superintendent: "How long have you worked in the garage?"
Mechanic: "Sixty-five years."
Maint. Supt.: "How old are you?"
Mech.: "I'm 40 years old."
M. Supt.: "How could you work for 65 years when you are only 40 years old?"
Mech.: "Lots of overtime!"

Hotel clerk (haughtily): "Are you a guest of the house?"
Patron: "Heck, no! I'm paying $20 a day!"

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Pacific Coast District Metal Trades Council Convention

(By Delegate H. W. WATTS)

The Tenth Annual Convention of the Pacific Coast District Metal Trades Council opened in Portland, Oregon, January 16th and continued in session for three days.

There were one hundred and seven delegates present at the convention, representing unions and councils in California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. Among the people who addressed the convention was Mrs. Lee, the Mayor of Portland, the County Sheriff, who is a member of the Fire Fighters Union, the Secretary of the Central Labor Council and others.

Ship Building and Repairs

The executive recommended that three panels be set up by the convention to handle the following subjects: Shipbuilding and Repairs, Uptown Shops, Navy Yards. These panels were set up and reports were made. Among the reports made by the Shipbuilding and Repairs Panel, it was pointed out that from a Bill authorizing the expenditure of 25 million dollars on ship repairs and renovation on the Coast, that only 16 million may be passed.

There is no new construction of large vessels being carried out on the Pacific Coast, and even boats that are to be used on the Pacific Coast are being built in the East. The Bethlehem Company, which has a yard in California, is building 13 boats on the east coast.

On the question of the opening up of the Master Agreement, the panel recommended that this matter be left in the hands of the executive and international officers, who will have a better picture of the situation when the time comes to open up the agreement.

Among the resolutions adopted by the convention were: one that failing to secure allocation of shipbuilding to the Pacific Coast by the Maritime Commission, that legislation be initiated before the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee of the House of Representatives to compel the allocation of work to the West Coast yards.

That all future negotiators be instructed to insist that all future contracts provide that every journeyman shipfitter shall be supplied with a helper from the Boilermakers Union.

That the seven hour day be negotiated by all crafts for uptown work, field work or shipyards.

That employees starting a shift, or called to start work after the starting time of a shift, shall receive not less than eight hours' pay, and that employees required to report for work not continuous with their regularly assigned shift hours, or on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays, shall receive not less than four hours' pay at the specified overtime rate.

Social Security Benefits

There were other resolutions passed favoring support of a Bill to increase Social Security benefits; overtime pay for work performed during regular lunch periods.

Among resolutions referred to the Negotiating Committee was one from the Electricians asking that the wage schedules be revised to provide that the electrical workers' wage equal that of the highest paid mechanics in the shipyard industries, to compensate increased qualifications required of the electrician.

That wage increases be asked for in line with the recommendations made by the Executive Board of the American Federation of Labor.

That a committee be set up to ascertain from each craft what their coming demands will be for field work, shipyards or uptown shop work, and that this data be supplied to the Negotiating Committee.

Reports from Delegates

Among the reports made by delegates it was found that there has been an increase in Workmen's Compensation in Oregon. That there is a great shortage of power in Oregon, which is holding back industry. That new power plants are being built in Washington and Oregon and that the population in all three Pacific Coast states has grown tremendously.

An injunction has been asked for by a sand and gravel company to prohibit the unions from placing the firm on the unfair list.

Shipyard work has gone down considerably in all yards on the coast, but the councils are stil carrying on an active campaign, along with business associations to get more shipbuilding on the coast.

Japanese Competition

A confidential report from a government official in Japan discloses that the U.S. government is getting ship repairs done in Japan, that there are now 6,500 shipyard workers in Japan and that the wages are around twenty five (25c) cents per hour; that while the Japanese are not able to turn out the same amount of work as American workers that the work can be done for about 30% less than in the United States.

San Francisco reported that unions have been able to negotiate for welfare plans, one of which is that the employer will take care of hospital costs of employees while in hospital.

California has also taken the sales tax off shipbuilding and repairs.

An organizing campaign being carried out in Southern California in various industries has been fairly successful and is continuing. The Navy Yard there has closed down but the employees have been absorbed by other industries.

In Portland the uptown shop workers have been able to obtain six paid holidays in their agreements. Portland also has the best agreement in the U.S. for Chemical Workers. There is to be a big drydock built in Portland and the Metal Trades and Building Trades there work in close cooperation.

The Navy Yard in Bremerton is co-operating with organized labor and there appears to be a more liberalized policy than there used to be. Unions now have the right of way for organizing purposes and stations are provided for the holding of union meetings.

Political Activity

There is a tremendous amount of enthusiasm towards the new political activities of the unions in all three states. Strong committees are operating and donations to the political funds are coming in from every union. The Taft-Hartley Act has certainly increased the workers' desire to take more active interest in political subjects.

Tom Rotell was re-elected unanimously to the office of Executive Secretary, and Brother Jack Hollingsworth was elected to the office of president in place of Brother O'Neill of the Boilermakers Union, who resigned because he has become an International Officer. The vote was: Jack Hollingsworth, Sheet Metal Workers, Bremerton, 155 votes. John Stender, Boilermakers, Seattle, 127 votes.

TOM ROTELL
Executive Secretary Pacific Coast District Metal Trades Council.

Say, Sister, I've got a little behind —in my dues, but the president says that I've made up for it in the front —office.

In Mortal Danger

The task of assuring the survival of western civilization cannot be accomplished by America alone, any more than by Europe without America's assistance. We need each other, since what we call western civilization is the synthesis of American and European civilizations. Both have their peculiar genius and their peculiar creative spirit. And they certainly complete each other.

American civilization, with its conception of a people's democracy, is more technological minded. European civilization, with its conception of a democratic elite, is more intellectual minded. Each has its strong and weak points. Each has its advantages and shortcomings.

Separate they are in mortal danger. United they can, and I am convinced they will, win the present struggle for man's most precious possessions —dignity and freedom.—Andre Visson in "As Others See Us."

FRESH COP

Traffic cop: "Listen, lady, didn't you hear my whistle?"

Young thing: "Yes, but you're wasting your time; I'm engaged."

1950 To Be Record Year For U.S. Hospital Building

This year will be a record one for completion of Veterans' Administration hospital units, the government agency reports.

An addition of 11,212 beds will be made during 1950, the present construction schedules indicate. These will be in 28 new VA hospitals.

There are 67 hospitals in the current VA building program. Five have been completed, 41 are under construction and contracts are pending on the remainder.

The entire VA hospital program will have a total of 131,000 beds with some reductions to be made on the basis of Army and Navy facilities to be turned back.

One of the largest of all the VA hospital projects is the Franklin D. Roosevelt hospital near Peekskill, N.Y., a 36-building layout planned for neuropsychiatric patients. It will be finished this month.

Happy New Year!

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