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TO EACH UNION MEMBER THE POLITICAL PARTY OF HIS CHOICE

LABOR STATESMAN

OWNED BY THE VANCOUVER, NEW WESTMINSTER AND DISTRICT

TRADES & LABOR COUNCIL

BUILD STRONG UNIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

NUMBER 293 — VANCOUVER, CANADA, MAY, 1948 — Established 1924

Department of Labour RECEIVED MAR 10 1949 LIBRARY

WHAT THEY SAID...

Abe's View of Labor

"All that serves Labor serves the Nation. All that harms Labor is treason. No line can be drawn between these two. If any man tells you he loves his country, yet hates Labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trust his country, yet fears Labor, he is a fool. There is no country without Labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other."—(From a speech by President A. Lincoln.)

"The Taft-Hartley prohibition of political activity obviously violates the Constitution."—U. S. Court Decision.

We Need a Crash!

Cheerful note by U. S. economist: "Our economy is now running hog-wild and heading for a crash; and this crash when it occurs will be the best thing that could happen, for it will bring us into balance once more and allow us to begin to rebuild. In fact, a good sharp reaction and depression is the only thing that can straighten out the present confused situation."

Meat a Luxury?

Proposals to ration meat are certain to come before the reconvening Congress, but are not likely to get anywhere.

The reason is that meat is no more a necessity than fuel oil, which is not rationed to individuals. To many persons meat is a luxury. They can take it or leave it.—From an editorial in the Rock Island, Illinois, Argus.

Mugwump Stassen

In a recent article, the New Republic has this to say of one of Stassen's speeches: "Like most of his programs it was, as one journalist said, more than nothing and less than something.

"Everyone who heard Stassen agreed with all he said and no one knew quite what he meant. Every one of his Tory demands was clothed in Liberal language. Every Liberal suggestion was qualified at once, and wrapped in Tory winding sheets."—New Republic.

Liberty and preventable poverty cannot live together.—Jennie Lee, M.P.

F.D.R. Was a Union Member

President Roosevelt was given a gold membership card by the Bakery and Confectionery Workers, AFL, for "distinguished service to humanity." The card is designated Honorary Life Membership No. 1.

And So Is Joe Louis!

Joe Louis, world's heavyweight boxing champion, was made an honorary member of the Transport Workers Union, CIO. He accepted an honorary card, accompanied by a letter, which said:

"We are pleased to take this opportunity to grant you membership in our local in appreciation of the fight you are waging against racial discrimination and for the liberation of the Negro people."

The highest incomes are nearly always unearned and the lowest are always earned by hard labor.—A. J. Evans (a former member of the London Stock Exchange who became a champion of economic democracy).

Cabbages and Kings

When Lewis Carrol wrote that famous line of his about "cabbages and kings," he probably had no idea that the lowly cabbage would some day rise to the fabulous price of $1.00 per head. At this rate, only the kings (of finance) can afford cabbages.

A prejudice is a vagrant opinion without visible means of support. —Ambrose Bierce.

Gov't Too Generous To Vets - - MacKenzie

B. C. Senator Thinks Education Should Be Won By Hard Work.

Sen. Ian Mackenzie (Lib., B. C.), former veterans' minister, told the Senate he thinks maybe the government has been "a bit too generous to veterans in its provisions for education aid."—Vancouver Sun, April 30, 1948.

Freight Rates

Speaking of the proposed imposition of the 21 per cent increase in freight rates, and which higher transportation costs will of course be passed along to consumers, the crowning point of amazement is the announcement from the Prices and Trade Board that it is allowing the ceilings on butter and sugar to rise in order to cover the added expense due to the higher freight rates."

And thus, as the Toronto Evening Telegram rightly says, the country is witness to the burlesque of a parliamentary committee feebly attempting to chase prices down while in another part of the House the cabinet gives the nod to higher costs and the Prices and Trade Board solemnly places its seal of approval on increased prices to the consumer on necessities of life." These be thy gods, O Israel!—Halifax Citzen.

Resolution Raps Communists And Reactionary Employers

Resolution Carries 72-49 After Long, Bitter Debate

A resolution introduced at the last Council meeting by the Executive, charges that the Communists are "seeking control of the Canadian Labor Movement, and lashes out at "reactionary employer groups" which are also seeking destruction of the labor movement by exploiting the activities of a small communist minority, in order to secure restrictive labor legislation.

The resolution also calls for greater co-operation between democratically controlled trade union groups to eliminate existing evils in the Canadian economy, which provide a "fertile soil for communist agitation."

Chief amongst such evils are: lower living standards due to the lag between wages and rising prices; inadequate protection against sickness, accident, old age, and a "deplorable lack of aggressive policies in the problem of low-cost housing."

Leading off what proved to be a lengthy debate, Delegate Tom Alsbury, Vancouver Teachers, declared that efforts of the Executive to carry out its instructions and to give constructive leadership had been hampered by the persistent and continuous attacks and sniping of a "small but noisy, well-organized minority in the council."

"I say these attacks and smears are no accident but part and parcel of the deliberate policy of the communist Labor-Progressive party to discredit non-communist labor leaders.

Delegate Alsbury quoted from official communist statements ordering "that systematic efforts be made to remove non-communists from responsible positions in the labor movement as enemies of the working-class."

Delegate Thompson, C.S.U., said that he had noted that the most violent anti-communists "can always tell you all about communists." He said each member has the right to choose his own party, and the L.P.P. has a right to exist.

Delegate Phillips, Civic Employees, spoke strongly against the resolution, and quoting a statement by Harold Winch that the C.M.A. had dictated the I.C.A. Act, wanted to know if Delegate Alsbury "shares the views of Harold Winch."

Sam Shearer agreed with the policy of "keeping politics out of the Council" and was opposed to the resolution. He warned against a "red hysteria."

Delegate Herrett, Barbers' Union, declared that there are those who are in the labor movement for the purpose of expressing their political views.

"These people can never go along co-operatively. They want to tear down. They don't want to build up," he concluded in calling for support of the resolution.

Grievance Committee Chairman, Bob Cormack, said he wished to make quite clear that he disagreed with the proposals of the Board of Trade. He stated the resolution does not call for expulsion of communists, as some speakers tried to make out, and that the Executive had made very strong objections to the Government in Victoria opposing any suggestion that communists should be debarred from holding office in trade unions.

"What the resolution deals with is the methods and tactics of the communist Labor-Progressive Party by which they seek to sabotage freedom in the unions, just as they are trying to sabotage the Labor Government in Britain," said delegate. "We believe in democracy in the trade union movement, but the communists seem to have a different idea of democracy."

Secretary Gervin said that the resolution states that both reactionary employers and the L.P.P. are trying to wreck the trade union movement, and that a small minority of delegates are persistently bringing in resolutions and amendments which are making the work of the Trades and Labor Council ineffective.

Those who have worked so hard at building up the Council have no desire to see Labor split, but that would happen if a small group is allowed to act contrary to policies laid down by the Council.

"Officers and business agents are going to have to get off the fence and stop these tactics or their organizations are going to be split and they will go into oblivion."

The communists are not interested in a strong labor movement but, on the contrary, want to see it ineffective, so that their party can grow and make progress.

The communists, he said, take every opportunity to attack the Executive, but when they are criticized they scream about "red baiting."

President Birt Showler left the chair to get into the debate and reviewed difficulties with such minorities over a long period of years. He urged the delegates to keep their organization strong and free from those who seek to dominate it.

After an unsuccessful effort to table the motion lost on a close vote, the resolution finally passed, 72 to 49, after nearly two hours of debate. Copies will be sent to all unions and to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Council of Handicapped Doing Good Work

In a brief address to the Trades and Labor Council, Bro. John Humphries outlined the excellent work being done by the Council of the Handicapped and urged legislation in Canada similar to that passed in Britain. There, employers are compelled to employ a quota of disabled persons. The Act provides for training, education and registration of handicapped persons and for assisting disabled persons to secure employment or to work on their own account.

The speaker stated that in the U.S. there has been assistance given to disabled persons for the past 28 years, but Canada has not yet awakened to the need of helping our disabled persons.

Because of discrimination, disabled persons in Canada are hiding their disability in order to get employment. This condition exists because of lack of Government action to educate the public and employers in regard to the possibilities of employing disabled persons.

Amongst other things, Mr. Humphries said, his organization is asking the Government to give consideration to the question of employment for shut-ins.

Hod Carriers Protest Job Going To Eastern Firm

The Hod Carriers' Building and Common Laborers' Union has protested the action of the Government in letting out the contract for the job at Needles, B. C., to an eastern firm which had underbid local firms $200,000 on the job. This violates an understanding of many years' standing which the union claims has been observed by the Government until now.

Secretary Gervin was instructed by the Council to investigate the matter and to take it up with the Building Trades Council and the Provincial Government.

CSU To Start Button Campaign For Funds

Delegate Thompson, CSU, stated that his union is planning to initiate a button campaign to raise funds to assist in the present dispute on the Great Lakes where the companies have locked out their employees and are insisting that they join Pat Sullivan's Lake Seamen's Union.

The Council went on record as endorsing the plan and will ask all unions to support it.

Leatherworkers Have Agreement With Leckie Co.

A letter to the Trades and Labor Council from the Leatherworkers' Union (C.C.L.) points out that some years ago J. Leckie Company was placed on the "Do Not Patronize List."

The Leatherworkers' communication states that they now "practically have a closed shop," and ask that the Council remove this company from the unfair list, and the Union believes that this action would be of help in building their Union.

The request was referred to the Grievance Committee for study and report.

EXECUTIVE DELEGATION HELD ON IN VICTORIA UNTIL ICA AMENDMENTS PASSED

Supplementing its previous reports on the steps taken to oppose the amendments to the ICA, the Executive's final report showed that its delegation remained in the House until the Bill had finally passed third reading.

Delegate Tom Parkyn stated that, generally speaking, he agreed with comments of the Executive's report on its activities in Victoria but felt that some steps might have been improved. He felt that there was some lack of co-ordination.

Supporting the Executive's actions, Del. Tom Alsbury denied that there had been any lack of co-ordination and, on the contrary, declared that the Executive delegation had "made history" in that for the first time the AFL and CCL delegations worked together in the closest "unity" and have made almost identical representations to the Minister and had issued a joint press release setting forth labor's views on the proposed amendments to the ICA Act.

In answer to the statement that it was rumored that the AFL had given "tacit" support to the Labor bill, he said "we are not responsible for rumors but we are responsible for our actions" and that a joint meeting of the AFL and CCL delegations with the CCF caucus had arrived at almost complete agreement in regard to the sections of the Bill that should be opposed. Bert Gargrave, MLA, had expressed complete satisfaction with the manner in which the Executive had expressed its views to the Opposition prior to the discussions of the Bill in the House.

In a fighting speech, Secy. Gervin replied to critics on the floor and stated that the executive had carried out its instructions fully and that he as secretary had no authority to call a special meeting at the request of one or two delegates.

He reported to the Council that he and his family had been subjected to no little convenience over one entire weekend through receipt of wires and constant ringing of his phone, evidently pre-arranged to "put the heat" on him to call a special meeting.

The secretary was critical of delegates who act contrary to adopted policies of the council. "What I want to know is, whether or not the policies laid down by this council are to be carried out, and whether or not a half-a-dozen delegates can gang up and decide that the Executive must change that policy."

"I suggest that these delegates should be seated in this council if they cannot be guided by the majority," he concluded, and asked that in fairness to the Executive that its report be adopted.

New Veterans Favor Delay On Old Hotel

New Veterans Branch 168, Canadian Legion, have forwarded a strongly worded wire to the T. Eaton Company in Toronto, protesting the tearing down of the old Hotel Vancouver until satisfactory housing can be provided the veterans and their families now living there. The wire also states that concerted action is necessary to have the authorities implement a reasonable housing program. At present, thousands of veterans are already living in slums and tenements.

It would be disgraceful to force others into such conditions by tearing down the hotel, as planned, so long as the present housing shortage continues, the wire concludes.

The Council expressed agreement in general with the views of the communication, but felt that emphasis should be placed on the constructive side calling for an immediate, aggressive housing program which would eliminate the necessity for any family to live in slum conditions, including the very unsatisfactory conditions prevailing at the old Hotel Vancouver.

Painters' Union Would Enlist M.L.A.'s Help

A resolution forwarded to the Trades and Labor Council by the Painters points out that in the past M.L.A.'s have not been consulted by Labor until after the presentation of its views to the Cabinet, and urges that in future the aid of M.L.A.'s willing to assist should be enlisted in preparing and presenting labor briefs to the Government.

The suggestion was referred to the Provincial Executive of the A.F.L.

ITU Completes 2 Years On The Picket Line

The International Typographical Union, Local No. 226, has drawn to the attention of all unionists that June 6 will mark the end of the second year that they have been locked out by the Vancouver Daily Province. During all that time, regardless of weather, ITU pickets have remained at their posts.

The ITU points out that the Province is still being produced by strikebreakers and urges unionists and the public to beware of false propaganda to the contrary. The letter, over the signature of Secretary Harry Neelands, declares that when a settlement is made, the Union will lose no time in making that fact known.

The Union went unanimously on record in expressing its appreciation of the support given by all affiliated Unions during this long struggle.

Charlie Gower Named To Exhibition Parade Committee

The Trades and Labor Council complied with a request received from the Pacific National Exhibition Board by naming Charlie Gower as its representative on the Exhibition Parade Committee.

Store Clerks Get Wage Increase

Wage boosts ranging from $3.50 to $7.05 weekly have been won by 120 grocery clerks employed by Superior Food Stores in Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria.

Under the new contract store managers will receive a $6 weekly increase.

The negotiations were successfully concluded under the chairmanship of Conciliation Officer Stuart Willis-croft.

Tommy Thompson, secretary of the Joint Council of Retail Employees, and George Johnston, International Clerks' organizer, represented the employees in the negotiations. W. R. Cumming, president of Superior Food Stores, acted on behalf of the company.

DEADLIER THAN WAR

For one victim that war and pestilence have slain, for one heart that they have racked with suffering, poverty has slain its millions; and not slain alone, but first condemned them to drag through a life of bondage and degradation. YET THERE IS ABUNDANCE IN THE WORLD FOR EVERYONE, AND POVERTY COULD BE COMPLETELY ERADICATED."—Ill-Health, Poverty and the State, by John Hewetson.

This week's definition: Time—the space between paydays.

* * *

The Wife: "What do you know about women's clothes?"

Husband (bitterly): "The price."

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U.N. Integrity At Stake

Says the Saskatoon Star-Phoenx editorially:

"Since the United States has abandoned support for the partition of Palestine, the issue before the United Nations ceases to be the future of the Holy Land and becomes the integrity of the United Nations itself. The partition of Palestine is not a security council policy. It is a policy that was devised by the Assembly of the United Nations after a special session, after an exhaustive investigation, and a regular session of the Assembly. It does not lie with the security council or with any nation on the council to repudiate this policy for its own convenience. If the authority of the international organization is to mean anything in world affairs, its decisions must be upheld by those who participate in making them".

Sen. Taft, Can You Top This One?

This one should stop Senator Robert A. Taft (R., Ohio) and company cold.

It was an Associated Press dispatch reporting that Senator Taft, who was guest speaker at a meeting of service clubs in Gary, Ind., was given this introduction by ex-Senator Raymond E. Willis (R., Ind.):

"Ohio is regarded as the mother of presidents and, by golly, I think that maybe she is in a family way again."

Commented the Journal's correspondent: "By golly, I believe she will miscarry this time!".

"I was shot through the leg in the war."

"Have a scar?"

"No, thanks, I don't smoke."

Shearer Reports On Ottawa Prices Meeting

On behalf of himself and President Birt Showler, Del. Sam Shearer gave a detailed report of the "Roll-Back Prices" conference held in Ottawa and organized by the Housewives League.

Two hundred delegates attended from all parts of Canada. There were also present 200 visitors from Montreal.

Although Finance Minister Abbott had refused to meet the delegation, they were not disheartened and had drawn up a comprehensive brief.

"We are facing serious times and we must take a stand," said Delegate Shearer in concluding his report. "Let us meet them without political bias."

In supplementing this report, President Showler stated that it was generally felt in Ottawa that Mr. Abbott had made a grave mistake in refusing to meet the delegation.

Labor Relations Board Members Visit Council

Interested visitors at the Vancouver and District Trades and Labor Council meeting when the ICA Act amendments were under discussion, were three members of Labor Relations Board. They were J. Pitcairn Hogg, chairman; Mr. Fred Smelts, employers' representative, and Mr. Geo. Wilkinson, AFL labor representative.

Council Protests Govt. Action In Increasing Rates For Annuities

Delegate C. Oates, Vancouver Secondary Teachers, roundly condemned the Dominion Government for its recent action in increasing rates on Dominion Government annuities by order in council.

He pointed out that this is a matter of importance to all trade unionists because the increase is felt most by workers of small income. It was important also because many progressive employers use annuities to help employees to establish pension plans.

These increases make government not much more attractive than private insurance companies' plans.

The Government, he felt, should be condemned on two counts: first, for pricing annuities out of the market, and second, taking this action by order in council.

When it was reported in the House of Commons, it was greeted by cries of "shame."

Delegates Oates' resolution which protested the Government's action, was carried unanimously, and it was agreed that all affiliates be notified of this action and requested to protest individually to the Government.

A Correction

An article published in our March issue entitled "Workers' Share of Income Dropping as Profits Soar," was incorrectly credited to the "Calgary Call" instead of to the Trade Union Research Bureau of Vancouver, which had prepared the article in question.

The Labor Statesman regrets this error and is pleased to acknowledge its indebtedness to the Trade Union Research Bureau for the privilege of using this article.

Baby Teeth

Irregular teeth, which ruin the appearance, literally have their roots in childhood. They may be due to neglect of baby teeth, to such child habits as thumb-sucking or lip-biting, or to mouth breathing due to adenoids or other nasal obstruction, to retaining baby teeth longer than normal or to neglect and loss of the first molar on the second set.

Dental officials at Ottawa advise regular twice yearly examinations to enable dentists to off-set such conditions.

Right Light

Harmful glare may be avoided, when doing close work, or when studying, by turning the desk or workbench at approximately 30 degrees away from the source of illumination, the authorities tell us.

To save the eyes and avoid harmful glare, light should come over the shoulder and care should be taken not to cast the shadow of the body, or of any part of it, onto the work in hand.

How To Be a 500 Per Cent American

A booklet on how not to be mistaken for a Communist is Hollywood's best-seller today.

It is called Screen Guide for Americans and is published by the Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals.

The right-wing organization was founded by, among others, Ginger Roger's mother.

The booklet lists these don't's for film makers: Don't smear the free enterprise system; don't deify the common man; don't glorify failure; don't smear industrialists; don't permit any disparagement of personal success; don't give to your characters—as a sign of villainy—a desire to make money.

Jet Gas Eaters

Have you heard of the gasoline shortage? Information from the U. S. Air Force reveals that jet planes often use as much as 550 gallons of fuel per hour. This compares with only 100 or 125 gallons for conventional airplane engines.

Say it with flowers,
Say it with eats,
Say it with kisses,
Say it with sweets,
Say it with jewelry,
Say it with drink,
But always be careful
Not to say it with ink.

Workers Build Political Arm

Exercising their rights as free Americans, leading citizen-workers from forty-six states assembled in the nation's capital last month to make plans to insure maximum effectiveness of the program of Labor's League for Political Education.

"We are determined," said a declaration adopted unanimously by the conference, "to defeat those whose record on the Taft-Hartley Act and other vital national issues has made it evident that they are misrepresenting the American people.

"We are equally determined to elect those who will defend and uphold human rights and stand for good government for all."

George Meany of New York, L. L. P. E.'s secretary-treasurer, explained the setup of the League and made an encouraging report on its progress in the short time since its birth. Mr. Meany placed emphasis on the fact that L. L. P. E. has been established not as a temporary organization but as American labor's permanent political arm.

"Whether we accomplish all our objectives this year or not," he said, "laboring people are in politics to stay. By bitter experience, we have found that in self-defense we must keep active politically."

Cy: "Have you tried many cases lately Judge?"

Judge Brewer: "Yes, but, the stuff in 'em is terrible these days."

* * * *

Happiness can only be built on virtue.—Coleridge.

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Lax(atives)

The Canadian businessman is so busy providing a higher standard of living for the people of Canada that he has been lax in answering his critics, C. Bruce Hill, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, told the Canadian Wholesale Hardware Association.—Montreal Gazette.

* * * *

The Pestilence of Education

Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, former Conservative Prime Minister, last night termed government assistance to universities "a spreading pestilence in every walk of life."—Montreal Star.

* * * *

The only period in a woman's life when she gives any thought to dress is between the cradle and the grave.

Well Said!

"If free enterprise is in danger, it is because of the evils that have been permitted to grow and fester in it. No system that has the real interests of the people at heart will be overthrown by the people."—Colorado Labor Advocate.

Mechanic: "Did you hear about the battery man? He drank some sulphuric acid by mistake last night."

Gas Pumper: "Hurt him?"

Mechanic: "Naw. Only thing that bothers him is he makes holes in his handkerchief every time he blows his nose."

* * * *

A much-bandaged man walked into a hospital. He was asked his name, and then asked:

"Are you married?"

"No," was his reply, "I was knocked down by an automobile."

On The Labor Front . . .

More Strikes Expected In U.S.

By DAVID ORLIKOW

The strikes of the coal miners and packing house workers in the United States are the first major strikes of 1948, but they are likely to be only the first in a long series. American labor—A. F. L., C. I. O. and independent—under the spur of rapidly rising living costs and swollen profits by business, is demanding wage increases as high as 30 cents an hour, plus improved pension and welfare rights.

Union leaders emphasize that these demands, which big business is quick to brand as exorbitant, are in reality only an attempt by labor to keep pace with the cost of living which is sky rocketing at an ever increasing pace.

According to the reports of President Truman's economic council, meat prices rose more than 90 per cent from June, 1945, to June, 1947, while wages were upped less than 3 per cent. The profits of the big meat packers in the United States have risen more than 300 per cent since 1939, according to union statistics. Union leaders point out that last year the Big Four Packers earned more than $144 million in net profits before tax deductions. This represents an all-time high for companies in the packing industry, at a time when packing house workers, with few exceptions, are earning 25 per cent less than the $1.39 an hour necessary to maintain a family of three, according to the figures of the American Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Miners Asking for Pension

The strike of the 475,000 coal miners, members of the United Mine Workers of America, is due to the demands of the miners for a pension of $100 monthly for every miner over sixty years of age. Several years ago the miners were successful in having set up a health and welfare fund, administered jointly by the union and management.

This fund is created by a contribution of 10 cents a ton on every ton of coal mined, and is said now to stand at about $30 million. Not only have the mine owners rejected the miners' proposal for a $100 monthly pension, which they claim to be impractical, but to date have refused to make any counter-proposals of their own. The miners, true to their tradition of hard fighting for what they consider their rights, have therefore laid down their tools.

Profit Increase

According to a survey published in the Wall Street Journal on Oct. 31, 1947, 149 major concerns in 15 industries earned $446,147,382 in the three months ending Sept. 30—a rise of 42 per cent above the third quarter in 1946.

Some of the group percentage gains over the third quarter of 1946 include:

1 auto and auto equipment companies	127
6 coal companies	63
9 electrical equipment companies	165
13 petroleum companies	70
10 pulp and paper companies	80

After studying figures such as these, labor unions are formulating their demands and opening negotiations with their managements.

Unless the employers are more willing to arbitrate these demands on the part of labor than they have been up till now, 1948 will see a wave of major strikes in the United States.

Is It Any Wonder The Price of Gas Has Been Raised?

One of the many oil companies in Canada, Imperial Oil Ltd., reports $20,464,381 net profit in 1947, an increase of $3,138,269 from 1946. And, just to prove that there was need for a raise in the price of cars, Ford of Canada Ltd. reports a net profit of $5,996,003 in 1947. The financial pages of daily newspapers are bulging with reports of huge profits—the highest ever—for U.S. and other corporations in Canada and especially in British Columbia. Yet the B. C. Government has seen fit to pass a 3 per cent tax act at this session of the Legislature, along with further restrictive provisions for the curbing of labor union activities. As a method of increasing the Communists in B. C. the present Anscomb-Johnson-Wismer trinity is in a class by itself. Fortunately, it resolves itself into a bit of political grave-digging. There will be an election one of these fine days. —Vancouver Typo Bulletin.

French Labor Splits

The Communist-dominated Confederation Generale du Travail has lost its complete control over France's railway workers. Some 100,000 of the country's 430,000 rail men linked up with the non-Communist Force Ouvriere: thereby making a major breach in Communist ranks.

Irvine Challenges Anti-Combine Philosophy

In his evidence before the Prices Committee, F. A. McGregor, Commissioner of the Combines Investigation Act, emphasized that the Act is based on the belief that free competition can be maintained in our economy; that what is required is a constant check on tendencies toward combines that restrict trade.

On Feb. 17, Bill Irvine (CCF, Cariboo) drew the following conclusion:

"I believe the tendency has been, in a competitive society, for the most efficient to gradually get rid of the least efficient; either absorb them or drive them out of business. So the teendency has been for larger and larger corporations and that tendency is still persisting. . . Efficiency demands that there be great centralized industries such as we have today; that is the tendency. Now then, since competition has brought this about, how can the restoration of competition, if that were possible, abolish the monopoly that exists in, by and through the competitive system? I ask that question, sir, if it cannot be done there is not much use basing an act on it. There is not much use looking to it for a solution."

EMPLOYEE-OWNER-MANAGEMENT WORKS

In April, 1946, the 180 employees of Parmenter & Bulloch Mfg. Co., makers of rivets, machinery and other metal products in Gannanoque, pooled their savings, borrowed more and purchased the company, which was then for sale. Since that time they have proved that employee ownership really works. Although the staff is reduced by ten per cent, and hours of work have been cut nine per cent (from 44 a week to 40), production has increased by fourteen per cent and three dividends totalling $7 on each $100 employee-owned share have been paid. In addition, a bond issue of $273,000 is being paid off at the rate of ten per cent a year.

Under its former owners Parmenter & Bulloch had an established reputation for progressive employer-employee relationships. When the workers decided to organize a local of the steelworkers' union several years ago the step was welcomed by management, and organization was quickly followed by a collective bargaining agreement. Earl Godfrey, son-in-law of the owner and a company executive, was twice a CCF candidate, and Tom Delaney, general manager, was one of his strongest backers. Under the circumstances when the owner, W. V. Bulloch, decided to sell the family concern in 1946, it was not surprising that he gave his own employees the first chance to buy it, and even shaved the price considerably to make it possible.

The sale price was $525,000. Many of the employees mortgaged their homes, sold their cars or borrowed from the bank, and among the 180 of them they scraped together $250,000. A bond issue was floated to raise the remaining $273,000, and it is being repaid in ten annual instalments.

Every employee bought some of the stock, and eighty per cent are now buying additional shares through payroll deductions. Only employees are permitted to own stock, and they have appointed a committee with power to limit the holdings of any one individual. If an employee leaves he is required to sell his stock back to the company, and it is put in a pool for resale to other employees.

Wages have been increased, and are now the highest in the district. Toolmakers, for example, get $1.33 an hour, compared with a local average of $1.15. A pension plan has been set up which allows a man to retire at 65 on approximately two-thirds of his salary.

One of the strongest boosters for the new setup is Tom Delaney, now president as well as general manager. He points with pride to the firm's increased production and general prosperity as proof that employee ownership really does work. "When men are financially interested," he says, "they avoid waste at every turn, and they work harder."—"C.C.F. News."

Two To One

A British Gallup poll showed that the people there favored nationalization by two to one.

Sask. Power Rates Reduced For 4th Time

Regina.—New reductions in Saskatchewan power commission rates, affecting both domestic and commercial consumers, have been announced by Natural Resources Minister J. L. Phelps. Making the announcement in the legislature recently, Mr. Phelps said the proposed rate reduction would go into effect early this summer.

The new cut will bring the total reduction to 46⅔ per cent from the rates which were in effect May 1, 1945.

Under the rate reduction the top domestic rate of nine cents will be lowered to eight cents; other domestic rates will be reduced approximately half a cent and the combination rate of two-and-a-quarter cents will be cut to two cents. The cut of domestic rates to eight cents would also benefit rural consumers, said Mr. Phelps.

The proposed reduction will be the fourth put into effect since May 1, 1945. Up to that time the Saskatchewan power commission's standard schedules included rates up to a maximum of 15 cents per kilowatt hour. At July 1, 1947, the standard rate schedule had been reduced 40 per cent to a maximum of nine cents per kilowatt hour.

Announcement by Mr. Phelps of the proposed lowering of power rates came during the course of a discussion on estimates in committee of supply. The House was debating a vote of $2,400,000 to provide for advances to the power commission for the acquisition, purchase and construction of power plants. The vote was later approved by the legislature.

On the basis of present power consumption in Saskatchewan, Mr. Phelps estimated the cut in rates would save consumers over $110,000 per year. It was anticipated, he said, that even with the reduction the power commission would have a substantial surplus at the year's end.

Although cost of generating electricity with diesel plants had greatly increased, the general cost of generating electricity in Saskatchewan had been fairly well maintained, said the minister.

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Excerpts from the Report from the Executive Council of the AFL on Education, and the Workers Education Bureau of America at the Annual Convention, San Francisco, California

As Labor was a major force in establishing the public school system it is our special task to examine the causes of the decline of the public school as a major force in a democratic society. The public school should be in the hands of the people whose children are being educated in them. The school belongs to the people; education of a nation is the concern of all of its people.

Today administration has been differentiated from teaching. The relation of classroom teachers to the others employed in the school system is being more and more formalized and the freedom of the teacher to teach is being more and more curbed. Classes are large; teachers are required to teach from 50 to 200 pupils each day. For the essential personal relation between teacher and pupil, a formal guidance program is often substituted.

The intimate relation of schooling and training for the community's life has been generally lost.

Adequate Pay for Teaching

A good teacher is too often rewarded by being promoted out of teaching because the scale for administrative work is higher than for teaching. Teachers, qualified, and gifted to teach, should be kept in the classroom, and paid well for their work. Teachers' pay everywhere is too low. Even the best paid, professionally qualified teacher in this country is not fully compensated. No community can afford to pay any teacher less than $3,000 annually. Salary schedules should be planned to give proper recognition to the value to the community of the work of the teacher.

Curricula must meet the needs of the individual and his community. Curricula should be planned by teachers and other qualified citizens who are aware of, or sensitive to, the needs of a dynamic, functional democracy.

Discipline

Discipline must develop an appreciation for rights and accompanying responsibilities. The essence of democratic procedure is discipline; discipline mindful of the welfare of the individual as well as of society. Such discipline is the basis of liberty.

Every free trade unionist holds that the essence of democracy is social discipline; a discipline based upon an ideal of mutual restraint for the common good. Somewhere between the rigid, regimented discipline asked for by the totalitarians, and the unbridled license which is misnamed as "free discipline" by the pseudo-liberals, the school of tomorrow can develop a sound, social discipline. The school should co-operate with the family of each child, with every social, moral and religious agency in the community to develop a leadership through which there may be developed the discipline which a virile democracy needs.

Federal Aid for Education

The American Federation of Labor sponsored legislation based on the principle that Federal Government should provide better educational opportunities for all children without discrimination based on any reason. This principle, basic in democracy and human freedom, is implicit in our Bill of Rights.

Vocational Education

Our interest in a sound program of vocational education is fundamental. To assure a sound program, however, it is necessary that we have a clearer understanding of what is meant by vocational education and what its functional relation is to general education. There are a number of communities in which an excellent approach has been made. However, the trend in this country in the use of federal funds for vocational education has been to use those funds to separate vocational education from academic education rather than to integrate it into the general education program.

It is of the greatest importance that a study be made of the entire subject of vocational education, including guidance and counselling before any further legislation on this subject is enacted. Guidance and counselling are terms which require critical analysis, both in their relation to schools, veterans' programs and industry in general. Counselling and guidance should be based upon a real knowledge of the economic, social and industrial structure of our nation. It should recognize human being, but also the needs of the community, the relation of the various elements in our society and the need of effecting co-operation between these various elments for the common good.

The use of mental tests and achievement tests should be critically evaluated not only to focus attention on the need of further studies of the tests themselves, but also on the need of more properly evaluating the implications of the tests and their use. Labor has a profound responsibility at this time in seeking to have public attention focused carefully upon the social standards and social objectives involved in the many counselling and guidance programs. We must critically evaluate the entire place of practical training in the nation's educational program.

It is, therefore, recommended that a special study be made of the entire subject in relation to the social well-being of the individual and the well-being of the community, and that for this purpose the permanent Committee on Education be instructed to take the necessary steps to have such a study made.

International Educational Problems

Today we recognize that the international aspects of education are of great importance. On education rests largely the course of the world for peace for war.

The Federation has sought to develop our better understanding of foreign and international problems, and particularly the responsibility of the United States in the family of nations.

Training for international understanding is of the greatest concern to us.

The teacher today must help his pupils develop a sense of international as well as national responsibility. He must train youth for living in one world.

We have in this report already stressed the teacher's responsibility in relation to his pupils, but such a program requires, first of all, that teachers themselves be trained so that they may perform their work properly and that machinery be developed through which we may all work.

Curricula, from kindergarten through the university and adult education classes should be adjusted and oriented so that the truth about all nations would be presented in such a manner as to develop a better understanding among nations and peoples. Textbooks and other teaching aids should stress the need and means of cultural co-operation. Exchange of pupils, exchange of teachers, exchange of labor leaders, foreign visits for our neighbors, assist greately in promoting closer understanding and should be encouraged. Such programs should be developed. We would, however, urge full Labor participation in such programs.

Tigerish Instincts Of Big Business

I, personally, am more fearful of the future than I have been in years. The raw red meat of juicy profits rouses the tigerish instincts of Business. Business—I say Business with a big B—not Industry—went whining to Washington cap in hand when the depression which it had brought on broke upon us; but now that it has fattened upon the war and its aftermath, it is out to turn the clock back to the early days of the century. All traces of progressive thought in school, pulpit and press must be obliterated. Doubtless there are men and women in the United States who believe that the right of revolution is possible in America. They are subversive; but the clamor in the press and in the Un-American Committee, is directed more to "traitors" to our economic status quo than to real traitors to the country. It is a greater crime to criticize the profit system than to criticize our government.

Organized Business is now starting on a $5,000,000 campaign of propaganda directed against all liberal thought. In this it is, of course, within its legal rights; but school and pulpit must counteract it. I despair of much leading and light from the daily press.—Marco Morrow, in Co-operative Consumer, Kansas City.

Sonny: "Mother, we're going to play elephants at the zoo and we want you to help us."

Mother: "What on earth can I do?"

Sonny: "You can be the lady who gives them peanuts and candy."

Oregon Senator Speaks For Labor

"You cannot expect workers in this country to continue along on wage scales that don't meet their living needs," said Senator Wayne L. Morse of Oregon, quoted in the Labor Journal of Durham, N. C.

The Senator blasted industry and business for "raising prices $2 for every $1 wages are raised." He said that if Congress does not take drastic steps to help keep prices down, then labor will be justified in demanding wage adjustments.

The Ethics Of "Free Enterprise"

(Specimen No. 1,837,453)

Man is the only animal you can skin more than once.—Attributed to the Fenestra Salesman and quoted in the Advertiser's Digest.

Some pro-Tafters were discussing his chances in the '48 presidential race. "What he needs," one said, "is a running mate who can bring out the labour vote."

"What he needs," chuckled a Demmy, "is a running mate who can keep the labour vote home!"

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ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL COUNCIL VANCOUVER 14

Vancouver, Canada, May, 1948

Double Threat To Unions

The resolution passed by a 72-49 majority of the Trades and Labor Council delegates condemns both reactionary employers and communists as a threat to a free trade union movement.

In their efforts to divert the spotlight from their questionable tactics and real aims in the trade unions which the resolution exposes, the communists attempt to place the majority of the Council delegates in the same category as the Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce. This argument is scarcely convincing as the resolution castigates "reactionary employer groups" no less severely than communists, for "seeking the destruction of the labor movement" by means of restrictive labor laws and curbs on the legitimate activities of unions.

As usual, the communists do not confine their arguments to the issue, but unscrupulously resort to any weapon at hand, including vicious personal attacks on Council officers, in a desperate attempt to discredit those who dare to oppose them.

They have, in fact, done everything but deny the accuracy of the charges brought abainst them, or the fact that official communist directives demand "that systematic efforts be made to remove non-communists from responsible positions in the labor movement as enemies of the working-class."

Despite all the falsehoods uttered with respect to it, the resolution *is constructive in purpose and content.* It calls for resistance to all attempts, either from the reactionary Right or the dictatorial Left, to interfere with the progress of the trade union movement towards its true objectives—the raising of living standards and the improvement of working conditions.

The Trade Union Movement

The efforts of countless men and women have gone into the building of the trade union movement.

It is the product of the faith, sacrifice and co-operation of workers in many lands over many generations.

It has come to us from the past. It is ours to preserve for the present and to pass on to the future. May it be improved and strengthened as a result of our contribution to it.

It is the tool which working people have forged to serve their needs, to defend their freedom, and to build greater security. Let us guard it well.

The Senate Says "No"

For the third time in the past three years, the Canadian Senate has defeated a bill to end the 62-year-old prohibition on the importation, manufacture and sale of margarine as a substitute for butter.

Once again our well-paid, fell-fed senators, who enjoy security for life on the best old-age pension plan in Canada, without means test, have clearly demonstrated that they stand on the side of special privilege and opposed to the welfare of the people.

Speaking in support of the bill which he introduced, Senator Euler said:

"I believe the Senate of Canada is, in a measure, on trial today, not because of margarine but because of the principle of a democratic right—the right to free choice, free enterprise, free competition...

"If we defeat this bill, the reaction of the people will be unfortunate and regrettable."

The bill was defeated 35-21. All four Vancouver senators—Ian Mackenzie, S. S. McKeen, J. W. De B. Farris, and J. G. Turgeon—voted against the bill.

Senator Euler aptly summed up the matter. The Senate has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Senate reform is long overdue. In its present form it stands in the path of progress.

The patience of the Canadian people is not unexhaustible. The time will come when they will rise up and demand the abolition of this useless appendage of government.

More of Hitler's Backers Go Free

An American "war crimes tribunal" this week acquitted 23 top officials of the German I. G. Farben industrial combine. The charge was that they "plundered" Czechoslovakia and Austria.

As a matter of fact, it is common knowledge that big German industrialists followed close on the heels of the Nazi armies, taking over factories in every country they invaded.

A few weeks ago, the same American tribunal acquitted Alfred Krupp and 11 other officials of the German Krupp armament "trust," of charges that they helped Hitler "plot an aggressive war."

There is plenty of proof that Krupp, Farben and others like them put Hitler in power to crush democracy and trade unions, just as Italian industrialists backed Mussolini for the same purposes.

The record shows that American and British industrialists had long, close and profitable "international cartel" connections with the German interests back of Hitler, and that American and British bankers loaned Hitler and Mussolini money to keep those dictators in power.

"Labor" recently quoted an impressive article from a conservative Canadian paper showing that Wall Street interests had a hand in picking the tribunal which has acquitted the Farben and Krupp magnates of some charges, and is expected to set them free entirely.

Thus history repeats itself. Substantially the same thing happened after World War I. That policy resulted in World War II. What's happening now may open the way for World War III.—Labor.

The Butter Question

Here's a point to consider in this murky question of butter shortage. If Canada is not able to produce sufficient butter to meet the market demands—where is the logic or the common-sense of prohibiting the manufacture, sale and importation of a wholesome, nutritious substitute? One writer also raises the very pertinent question, namely, who constitute the "dairy industry"—how much of the 73 cents a pound for butter goes to the farmers, and how much, in all the various stages from the cow's udder to the consumer's table, goes to the people other than the farmer? There's where we need Light and Information.—Halifax Citizen.

Dignity of Labor

Few people today have, I suppose, ever read Newman Hall's panegyric on the dignity of labor. Yet there was a time when it appeared in many schoolbooks, and every child knew it as a great rhetorical piece of English.

It is worth repeating some of it:

"Labor clears the forests, drains the morass, makes the wilderness rejoice and blossom as the rose. It moulds the brick, quarries the stone, shapes the column, and rears the palace, the tapering spire, the stately dome and the humble cottage home.

"Labor, diving deep into the solid earth, brings up its long hidden stores, feeds ten thousand furnaces and enables millions of habitations to defy the winter's cold . . .

"Labor is a mighty magician, with wonder-working wand making dreary valleys smile with golden harvests, clothing barren mountains with foliage, making busy wheels whirl round and towns appear, raising up the marts of commerce, the halls of science, the temples of religion.

"Because of labor, civilization smiles, liberty is glad, humanity rejoices, piety exults; the voice of industry makes gladness heard on every hand."

You can, of course, turn around and tell me that all this no longer holds good. I reply roundly that the truth of Newman Hall's words can be re-established—just as soon as we make the phrase, "the dignity of labor," really mean something again and restore it to its rightful place in our language and our life.—John Bull.

Civilian Labor Force 28 Per Cent Women

Washington. — The number of women in the labor force increased from January to February of this year, while in the same period last year declined in the number of women employed were reported.

According to Census Bureau reports, women in the civilian labor force now total more than three-quarters ofa million above that of February, 1947. The present total of 16,752,000 represents 28 per cent of the entire labor force.

Playing Politics With The Health Issue

While the political struggle over these two measures has gone on, the health of the nation (the Truman and Taft health bills) has continued to suffer. Seven million people in the U.S. fall victim to sickness or disability during every 24-hour period. Most or all of the 97 million Americans who could not afford all the medical care they required in 1945 had to forego needed treatment during 1946 and 1947 (AMA Medical Economics Bureau figures). And the 82 per cent of Americans who, when questioned in 1944, indicated in a national public-opinion poll that they believed something must be done to make it easier for people to get medical care, are still waiting in 1948—and going into debt for doctor bills. . . .—New Republic.

Saskatchewan's "Good Job"

United Church Observer, March 15, report on Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church of Canada, in annual session:

"Dr. J. R. Mutchmor, secretary of the Board, said that B.C. favors more disciplined living in refusal to sanction cocktail bars; Alberta's drink bill per capita is more than a third higher than Saskatchewan's; Saskatchewan and Manitoba are steadier provinces, their administrators and courts at all levels do a good job. . . Saskatchewan's crime record showed a marked decline, including a low of four murders."

Tories Reverse Stand On High Sales Tax

"Certainly proposals havve been made with regard to the reduction of prices by the leader of the opposition and we have anticipated the budget debate by getting into a discussion of taxation. I understand the leader of the opposition the other night to say that he thought the time had come for indirect taxes to be removed. I do not think he would advocate the removal of all indirect taxes; that would be too much, and so the hon. member for Lake Center tried to set the matter right yesterday by saying that the official opposition is now in favour of the removal of the sales tax. I do not need to give my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) any advice as to how seriously concerned he should be over the advice he gets from the opposition. Some of it will be good, some of it will be bad, none of it will be disinterested, and very little of it will be given to help him. But the worst feature of it will be that it will vary from month to month and year to year.

"Prior to the time the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. Macdonnell) came into the House the leading financial critic of the opposition was the hon. member for Rosedale (Mr. Jackman). The hon. member for Rosedale made a speech when I was minister of finance and I remember it very clearly. He argued what? For the abolition of the sales tax? No; he argued for an increase in the sales tax. His remarks will be found on page 3299 of Hansard of July 9, 1946, and to the present Minister of Finance I suggest this may be their position next year."—Rt. Hon. J. L. Ilsley, "Hansard," Feb. 5, 1948, p. 893.

Can't Complain

"The United States cannot complain," declares the Amherst, N. S., News, "if other countries now seek to be sure of her exact position (on Palestine) and that she will maintain it, before they support any alternative proposal which she suggests. Nor can she complain if some of them feel a bit bitter about her reversal as in the case of those which she had lobbied into voting for partition."

U.S. Army Pamphlet Giving Facts on Labor Annoys NAM and Its Chief Stooges

The latest tempest in a teapot stirred up by labor-haters in the nation's capital concerns an army pamphlet issued for the education of servicemen on "Organized Labor in the United States."

This pamphlet is written in temperate, factual style, attempts to tell a few plain truths about why unions are organized, how they operate and what benefits they bring the nation's workers.

But such truths apparently are unpalatable to the National Association of Manufacturers and its spokesmen in the press and in Congress. Raymond S. Smethurst, NAM counsel, denounced it as "pretty raw." David Lawrence, newspaper columnist who frequently echoes the views of big business, immediately blasted the pamphlet and accused the army of "cuddling up" to labor unions. And then that "great statesman," Congressman Clare Hoffman of Michigan, the noisiest labor-baiter in Congress, summoned military leaders before a House committee for a "grilling" on the subject.

Instead of backtracking, the army officials defended the pamphlet as a valuable document on the facts about the labor movement.

To judge for yourself what the fuss was all about, here are a few quotations from the pamphlet:

"There isn't much that an individual worker by himself can do when his employer does not furnish satisfactory working conditions. But there is a good deal that all employees in a given plant can do if they act together. 'In union there is strength.'

"The purpose of unions is to help workers obtain improved working conditions, higher wages, shorter hours and just treatment from employers. Unions seek to improve the lot of workingmen in general and to achieve standards for them which are considered to be in keeping with our way of life.

"Most unions are run representatively and democratically . . ."

"Despite disagreements on other points, unions and employers alike firmly believe that collective bargaining holds the answer to most, if not all, our country's problems in industrial relations.

"Because strikes are news and the public wants to hear about them, the extent of work stoppage in industry has been greatly exaggerated. By far the great majority of disputes between labor and management are settled peaceably, though these settlements are not often reported to the public as news. A strike is spectacular; peaceful settlement is not.

"Some strikes have seemed dangerous to the nation's welfare. But while strikes are costly to all concerned, and disliked by everyone, including workers, they have not seriously impeded industrial progress.

"In some measure they have helped it, because they have resulted in the mor considerate treatment of labor and better undrstanding between labor and management.

"The most impressive fact about labor relations in the United States is not the number of work stoppages but the far greater number of disputes between labor and management which have been settled through peaceable compromise and give-and1take, in keeping with our democratic traditions."

America's outstanding record of production, "in war and peace," is credited to "the superior efficiency of American workers and management, and to the excellent relations between labor and management."

"The wholesomeness of our nation's labor relations policies," the pamphlet concludes, "has resulted in our strong world position, our great national wealth, our tremendous industrial capacity, and our high standard of living."—Federation News.

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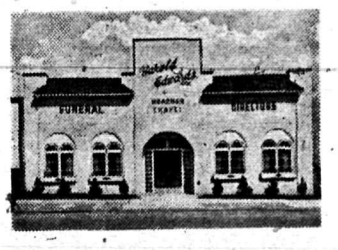

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"The major causes of war are economic, not ideological, because part of the world can have a socialized economy and part a mixed economy—as in the United States and Britain—but every nation, even at the price of curtailment of its national sovereignty, must, to be peaceful, have what Woodrow Wilson called "access upon fair terms to the economic opportunities of the world."

"That cannot be achieved under present concepts—not armaments, armies, air forces, bombs and bacteria—**is the price of peace.**

"America's greatest contribution to peace would be to take the leadership in getting the United Nations to establish world controls over those dealings between nations which are essential to the highest practical standard of living in each nation, to include:

"1. *International control of the world's natural resources, including oil.*

"2. International allocation of raw materials, including foods, shipping and markets.

"3. Universal disarmament.

"None of these should be subject to a veto.

"Such controls might involve extensive government corporations for international trading and would certainly foster the development of co-operative societies, which are an important advance from the law of the jungle and of individual aggrandizement and collective irresponsibility—to operation of economy for the greatest good of the greatest number throughout the world.

"Should the United Nations fail to act on this proposal the urgency of maintaining peace, by planning for it, the United States should convene it."—Chicago "Federation News."

Trades Union Directory

LABOR HEADQUARTERS, 529-531 BEATTY STREET

Auto Workers' Union, Lodge No. 1857, I. A. of M. — Business Agent, Len E. Butler, office, 531 Beatty St., phone PA. 2425.

Bakery Salesmen, Local 189, I. B. T. C. and H.—Business Agent, E. Holmes, 531 Beatty Street; PAcific 6546.

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

Barbers — International Journeymen of America, Local 120 — Secretary, C. E. Merrett, 531 Beatty St.; PAcific 4924.

Beverage Dispensers and Culinary Workers, No. 835—Secretary, T. Dougherty, 228 Sandringham Ave., New Westminster.

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, 531 Beatty St.; Phone 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, S. W. Jeffery, R. R. No. 1, Matsqui, B. C.

Bricklayers' Union, Local No. 1—L. Padgett, Sr., 3293 W. 31st; KErr. 5293-R.

Building Laborers' Union, Local 602 — Secretary, L. J. Millman, 531 Beatty St.; Phone MArine 9042.

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, 531 Beatty St., Phone PAcific 7884.

Building Service Employees, Local 244—Business Agent, A. J. Wybrew, 434 W. Pender St.; Phone PA. 8605.

Building Trades Council — Secretary, H. W. Watts, 531 Beatty St.; Phone PAcific 2942.

Canadian Seamen's Union (T. & L. C. C.) —Secretary, J M. Smith, 53 Powell St.; Phone MArine 4947.

Carpenters' Union, No. 452 — Business Agent, J. Stevenson, 531 Beatty St.; Phone PA. 6557.

Carpenters' Union (Chilliwack), No. 1843 —Secretary, J. R. Johnson, 368 Cedar St., Cultus Lake, B. C.

Carpenters, Local 1251 (New Westminster)—Business Agent, J. T. Bannan, 1008 - 6th Ave., New Westminster; Phone N.W. 5138R.

Carpenters (Nanaimo), Local No. 527 — Secretary, F. W. Bolton, 95 Wallace Street, 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, Labor Headquarters, 531 Beatty St., Phone MArine 9042.

City Hall Employees, Local 59—Secretary, T .H. Lewis, 2157 West 18th Ave.; BAyview 4755L.

Civic Employees' Union (Burnaby), No. 23—Secretary, J. E. Wilson, 2131 Merritt Ave., New Westminster.

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

Commercial Telegraphers' Union, C.P.R. Division No. 1—Phyllis M. Cline, Box 422, Vancouver.

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

Distillery Workers' Union, No. 92 — (U.D.L.) — Secretary, H. K. Gawne, 8292 French St., Vancouver, B.C.

Electrical Workers' Union, Local 213—Business Manager, George Gee, 531 Beatty St.; MArine 0736.

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

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

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

Engineers, School and Caretakers, Local 963 — Secretary, Len A. Roach, 2932 Sophia Street.

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

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

Floorlayers' Union, U. B. of C.J., Local No. 1541—Business Agent, R. V. Nash, 1978 E. Broadway.

Furniture Workers, U.B.C., Local No. 2533 — Secretary, Miss Hazel Hart, Room 4, 529 Beatty St., Phone TAtlow 2743.

Furniture & Mill Workers, U.B.C., Local No. 2534 (New Westminster)—Secretary, Geo. Powers, R. R. No. 5, New Westminster, B.C.

Glaziers and Glass Workers', Local No. 1527—Secretary, A. Allen, 5215 Culloden St., New Westminster.

Gas Workers' Union, Local No. 225—Secretary, F. Alty, 3746 Yale Street, office phone: MArine 2958.

Hospital Employees' Union, No. 180 — Secretary, A. Paterson, 192 West 18th Ave.; Phone: FAir. 1051-L.

Home Service Workers Union, No. 211—Secretary, Mrs. J. Hallock, 635 West 11th Ave., Vancouver, B. C.

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, 193 East Hastings Street, Room 216; MArine 0940.

Jewelry Workers' Union, No. 42—Secretary, W. Routley, 144 West Hastings St., Room 76; PAcific 2714.

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

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

Laundry Workers, No. 292 — Business Agent, J. H. Irving, 531 Beatty St., Phone PAcific 6548.

Lithographers, No. 44 — Secretary, A. Robold, 2974 W. 15th.

Lumber & Sawmill Workers, U.B.C., Local No. 2968 — Secretary, Hugh Wood, Room 4, 529 Beatty St., Phone TAtlow 2743.

Machinists, Local 692—Business Agent, Alf. Dyer, 531 Beatty St.; PA. 2435.

Machinists, Local 182 — Secretary, J Bygate, 1784 E. Seventh; HA. 5760-Y.

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 11—Secretary, R. McLure, 1736 East 7th Avenue.

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

Milk Salesmen and Dairy Employees, Local 464 — Secretary, Birt Showler, 531 Beatty St.; PAcific 6546.

Molders' Union, Local 281 — Business Agent, Louis Herzeg, 531 Beatty St.; phone FA. 1878-L.

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

Musicians' Union, Local 145 — Business Manager, E. A. Jamieson, Suite 81, 553 Granville St.; Phone PAcific 7842

Office Employees' Int. Union Local No. 15—Secretary, B. Gouthro, 531 Beatty Street; PAcific 4740.

Painters, Local 138—Business Manager, J. Eaves, 531 Beatty St.; MAr. 1536.; Res.: HAst. 5879-L.

Paint & Varnish Workers' Union, Local No. 1550 — Secretary, Ann Lenius, 1340 Horne.

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

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

Patternmakers, Local No. 1260 — Secretary, J. Haydock, 956 East 21st Ave.; Phone FAirmont 8969-R.

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

Plumbers and Steamfitters (Railroad) — Local 571 — Secretary, Lloyd Elrick, 1877 Haro St., Vancouver.

Photo Engravers, Local 54—Edwin Davis, 58 Lancaster Crescent, Sea Island, Vancouver. Phone ——

Plasterers' Union, No. 779 — Secretary, H. West, 3419 West 23rd; BAy. 6323-M.

Plumbers and Steamfitters, Local 170—Business Agent, Frank Carlisle, 539 Beattie St.; Phone MArine 3819.

Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, No. 69 — Secretary, Thos. S. Ezart, 1807 East 38th Ave., FRaser 2065.

Pulp and Sulphite (Conventers) Union, Local 433—Secretary, F. Mackinnon, 2486 West Third Avenue.

Pursers and Chief Stewards, Local 180 —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 Carmen, Local No. 55—Secretary, Samuel Shearer, 2256 West 22nd Avenue; phone BAyview 5452-L.

Railway and Steamship Clerks, No. 630 —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. P. S. F.—Secretary, L. R. Wintle, 137 West 40th, Vancouver; FRas. 4409.

Resilient Floorlayers (Section of Local No. 1541) — Secretary, Cliff Bressler, Room 4, 529 Beatty St., Phone TAtlow 2743.

Retail Grocery and Food Clerks, Local No. 1518 — Secretary, Geo. Johnston, 198 West Hastings, Room 406; Phone PAcific 5720.

Retail Meat Employees, Local No. 222—Business Agent, A. Thompson, 198 West Hastings St., Room 406; Phone PAcific 5720.

Retail Clerks, Local 279 — Sec.-Treas., Geo. Johnston, Room 406, Province Bldg., Phone PAc. 5720.

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

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

Sheet Metal Workers, Local 280—Business Manager, James Walker, 531 Beatty St.; PAcific 9032.

Sheet Metal Workers (Railroad) Local 314—Secretary, G. H. Dobb, 1116 7th Avenue, New Westminster.

Shinglers' and Roofers' Union, No. 2346 —Secretary, J. A. Gildermeister, 1974 W. 7th; CEdar 7137.

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

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

Sign and Pictorial Painters, Local 726—Secretary, J. Middleton, 5881 Dundas Street.

Street Railway Employees, Division 101 —Business Agent, A. Jennings, 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, 531 Beatty Street, Phone PAcific 6546.

Teachers' Association, New Westminster —Secretary, Hester L. Richards, 2036 Stride Ave., New Westminster, B. C.

Textile Workers' Local, No. 19—Secretary, Betty Mellis, 78 East Second Ave.

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

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

Tile Setters' Helpers, Local No. 78 — Secretary, H. Newbury, 1347 W. 71st Ave.; KErr. 5744.

Truck Drivers' Union, Local No. 31 — Business Agent, Reg. Lenfesty, 531 Beatty St.; Phone PAcific 6546 & 7884.

Typographical Union, Local 226—Secretary, Harry Neelands, 531 Beatty St.; MArine 3542.

United Garment Workers' Union, No. 232—Secretary, Mrs. L. Weir, 1496 Nanaimo St.

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

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

University of British Columbia Employees' Union, No. 116—W. T. Erwood, 2260 E. 10th Ave.

Union Label Trades Council—Secretary, Ed. Smith, 529 Beatty St.; phone PAcific 7884.

Labor Views The News

By TOM ALSBURY

The "Pro-Cons"

When the Conservatives added the prefix "Progressive" to their party name a few years ago, and subsequently became known as the "Pro-Cons," they gave themselves a title that fits them like a glove. "Pro-Con" cancels out, and that is what the Tories do on every issue. Only the "Pro-Cons" could, at one and the same time, stand for a Bill of Rights and for the outlawing of the Communist Party.

"Margarine Bill Dies in Senate"

The above news headline made the Vancouver Sun's Pennywise very mad. She said, "All I have to say is that it is a darn good thing the senators do not have to depend upon the vote of the people for their be-cushioned life-time cinches. That is precisely the reason, Pennywise, why they thumb their senatorial noses at the people and make the senate chamber the morgue for progressive legislation.

Apparently these same senators, who profess to be staunch upholders of free enterprise and competition, do not carry their principles so far as to allow free enterprise to those who might offer competition to their (the senators') friends.

Speaking of senators, it is amazing how many things our senators are against. They are not only against margarine, but also against education for veterans. It is noticeable, too, how bold they become once they have passed through the doors leading to the comfort and security of the senate chamber.

There is our own Ian, for example, who shortly after leaving the House of Commons to go to the haven for tired politicians, "confessed" to his fellow-senators that perhaps the government had been too generous in its provisions for education for veterans. The good senator never made such a "confession" while he was Minister of Veterans Affairs in the House of Commons.

We Rate an Editorial

As was to be expected, arising out of the much-debated resolution passed by the Trades and Labor Council condemning reactionary employers and communists, the Pacific Tribune came out with an editorial entitled "Inside Job," in which the unholy three, Showler, Gervin, and Alsbury, are soundly spanked.

With a complete disregard of the facts, the editorial says we have "nailed the bosses' favorite flag to the mast"—the "banner of anti-communism."

Nothing could be further from the truth. The resolution condemns merely communist tactics in the trade union movement, nothing more. For the record, it should be pointed out that the Executive of the Trades and Labor Council, including the three officers named above, took up the cudgels on behalf of the right of communists to hold office in trade unions and vigorously opposed any suggestion that they be denied the right.

But while we fight for their rights in the trade union movement, we also fight for our rights, too. We fight for our right to support the type of policies which we believe are in the best interests of the working-class and to oppose those policies and tactics which are diametrically opposed to those interests. In our opinion, the policies and tactics of the communists fall in this category.

Tattle-Tale Gray

The writer of this column comes in for special mention in the editorial in question because he had the audacity to quote from a certain communist document. According to the editorial, it is a document "he is incapable of understanding historically or otherwise."

I am conceited enough to believe that I can understand this document "historically." Otherwise both I and the province of British Columbia wasted a lot of time and money on my education.

As far as understanding it "otherwise," that is another question. I am inclined to think the editorial is right, especially if it means understanding it as communists do. If that is what it means, then to understand it "otherwise" means that one has to be an intellectual cortionist, a sort of mental gymnast who is capable of turning a somersault at a moment's notice. It means being able to argue what is black is white.

I could never understand the mentality which for nine days saw World War II as a war against fascism, then overnight changed, and saw it as an imperialist struggle unworthy of support. Then, again, when Russia was attacked, saw it once more as a struggle against fascism.

I could never understand the mentality which in the '30's formed "workers' unity leagues" because A.F.L. unions were reactionary and their leaders "labor fakirs," and which today seeks to worm its way into these same "reactionary unions, and is willing, and anxious, to hold office in them.

No, I could never understand these things. These frequent somersaults, these repeated attempts to argue that black is white tend to, however, leave behind a trace of "tattle-tale gray."

Security and Peace

But to get back to the editorial.

It concludes with the words, "To win rising living standards, security and peace, the man who punches a time-clock will have to clean out the red-baiters who are doing an 'inside job' on labor.

I can go a good part of the way with that sentiment. That, as a matter of fact, is the objective of our editorial; namely, to prevent those who are trying to do an "inside job" on labor by trying to divert it from its true objectives to serve their political purposes.

Spencer's Sign With Furniture Workers

History was made this week here in Victoria, when The Furniture Workers', Local 2527 (United Brotherhood of Carpenters) signed a collective agreement with the management of David Spencer Ltd., incorporating all employees of the upholstery and linoleum departments.

Among the concessions obtained by the newly formed Union are: 1, union shop; 2, paid statutory holidays; 3, two weeks vacation after two years' service; 4, wage increase up to (20c) twenty cents per hour.

By the signing of this agreement with David Spencer Ltd., we have broken a long-standing anti-labor policy of this company. It is a step in the right direction to have this firm removed from the unfair list of organized labor in Victoria.

Coinciding with this company's change of policy by dealing with a legitimate trade union, comes the news that the company-sponsored "Spencer's Welfare Association" has failed to gain recognition with the Department of Labor and their application for certification has been rejected.

Victor Midgley,
Representative.

In Lighter Vein

A Transient House

Calvin Coolidge was once taking an evening walk, accompanied by the late Senator Spencer of Missouri.

Passing the White House, Spencer joked, "I wonder who lives there?"

"Nobody," replied the unsmiling Coolidge. "They just come and go."

* * * *

A beggar clutched at the sleeve of a benevolent-looking passer-by.

"Five cents, sir, for a cup of coffee?" he whined.

The other turned to survey him. "Why should I give you five cents?" he asked. "What brought you to this sad plight?"

"A terrible catastrophe, sir," the beggar replied. "Two years ago, like you, I enjoyed business prosperity. I worked industriously. On the wall above my desk was the motto: 'Think Constructively. Act Decisively.' Wealth poured my way. And then—and then—"

"Yes, and then?"

The beggar's frame shook convulsively.

"The scrub lady burned my motto!"

* * * *

An old-fashioned girl is one who takes her cigarette out of her mouth before she pulls her nightie over her head.

* * * *

A woman was driving along a country road when she saw a couple of repair men climbing up electric poles.

"Look at those fools!" she exclaimed. "They think I never drove a car before."

* * * *

"I looked too thin in my last picture," said a petulant film star to her camera man. "Can't you do something to make me look round?" The camera man did something and the star slapped him in the face.

* * * *

Fortune Teller—Do you want to know something about your future husband?

Client—No, I want to know something about the past of my present husband for future use.

* * * *

After two years in the Pittsburgh office of a big organization, a girl was transferred to the New York headquarters. The morning she reported at her new post, the big chief called her into his sanctum and said, "I hope you'll be happy here. The work will be practically the same as you were doing in the Pittsburgh office." "Okay," she replied. "Kiss me, and let's get started."

* * * *

An elderly woman was escorting two little girls round the Zoo. While they were looking at the stork, she told them the legend of the ungainly bird—how it was instrumental in bringing them to their mothers.

The children looked at each other in astonishment and presently one whispered to the other: "Don't you think we ought to tell the dear old thing the truth?"

The mother of two grown-up sons suspected that one of them was getting a little fond of the attractive little maid. Anxious to find out for certain which one it was, she said to the girl:

"Mary, suppose you had the chance of going to the cinema with one of my sons, which would you choose?"

"Well," replied Mary, "it's difficult to say. I've been out and enjoyed myself with both of them. For a real posh time, of course, give me the master."

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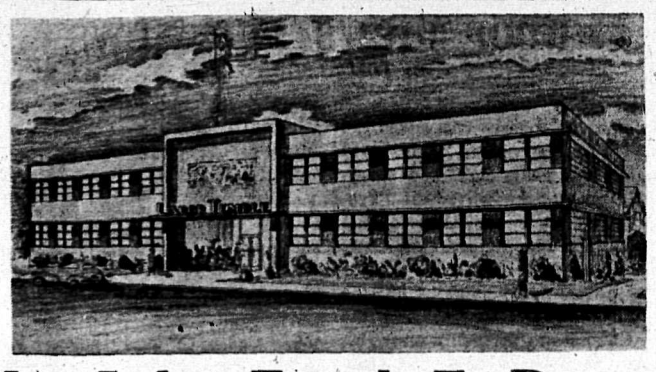
The city editor was lecturing the cub reporter again.

"You use too many words, Wadsworth," he said. "You say here that he was poor but honest. Why not just say he was honest?

"Again, you say that he was without money or friends. You are wasting space. Simply say he was without money."



New Labor Temple To Be Erected On Broadway West

Plans for construction of the new Labor Temple are about completed. It is to be built on the northwest corner of Broadway at Alberta, having 150 feet frontage on Broadway, 50 feet on Alberta, with lane on the north side which will provide adequate light on three sides of a two-storey building, with a full basement, says George Bengough, Secretary of Labor Headquarters, Ltd.

Some of the good features of the new location are:

-. Transportation to and from all parts of the city.

2. Banking and sub-post office facilities less than two blocks away.

3. Not being an industrial area, there is plenty of parking space for those with cars.

4. Taxes will be lower than in the present location.

The plans have been drawn to meet the requirements of our growing Labor Movement and include small, medium and large halls, carefully laid out for the meetings of your Unions. The auditorium will be acoustically designed for the conducting of larger meetings and will seat close to 400 persons or provide about 2,500 square feet of dance floor. All halls will, of course, be properly ventilated.

The cut at the top will give an idea of the fine appearance our new Labor Temple will present to the general public—very much in keeping with the prestige our Organized Labor Movement has acquired in this district. The ground floor is devoted to large, well lighted and ventilated offices, with an entrance befitting a Labor Temple of this size. A coffee shop is also planned for the main floor.

Credit for shares in the present building will automatically continue as shares in the new Labor Temple, but it is necessary that all those desiring office space make application immediately. Preference for office and meeting space will naturally be given to those Unions holding or purchasing shares.

The shares are $10.00 each, and as soon as the necessary formalities have been completed with the Provincial Government in respect to the "Companies Act," these shares will be issued. In order that your Local will not be disappointed, it is advisable to complete the pledge card for shares and forward it as soon as possible to the Treasurer, R. H. Neelands, 529 Beatty street, Vancouver, B. C.

Pledge cards for individual members may be had upon request at the Trades and Labor Council office. Let each Union and member pledge as much as possible to this up-to-date home for our Labor Movement. The estimated goal is $125,000.00 to cover the building and necessary furnishings, such as hall chairs, linoleum, light fixtures, etc.

If we all act promptly we should be able to invite the delegates to this year's convention of The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, convening in the city of Victoria, to stay over in Vancouver at the close of the convention for the official opening of our new Labor Temple.

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ANYBODY WANT TO BUY A DEAD CAT?

"The American public will be exposed to a $100 million advertising campaign over the next 12 months to 'sell' the American economic system. The program was announced yesterday by the Advertising Council, a war-born co-operative of the advertising trade which sprang up with government encouragement to sell the war on the home front, has decided to undertake as its most ambitious program to date a major project of educating the American people about the economic facts of life in a free enterprise system."—P M.

HARDER WORK AND MORE UNEMPLOYMENT!

"These are the days when it is wise to take a second look at costs.

"Layoffs alone won't meet the recession which apparently is upon up. More productivity must be made from the workers kept on the payroll."—Business Week.

THE REAPERS

"Manufacturers who are willingly cutting prices are now limited mainly to two classes: (1) those who are conscientiously trying to hold things down, and (2) those who are running into real competition.

"In the first category, you find many heavy industry lines that haven't yet built up much profit margin out of which price cuts might come, and many of these lines face wage boosts that limit their ability to cut.

"The lines with the lush margins, in general, have no intention of cutting prices. They will reap this harvest as long as they can.—Business Week.

Useful Job For Lana

Why don't they elect Lana Turner president of the U. S.? Maybe she could melt Mr. Molotov.—C. H. E.

SMELL ANYTHING STRONG?

"At last, says Ottawa, there will really be much new housing. The situation is becoming such that the Government is prepared to make strong promises."—Canadian Business.

Almost Worse Than War

Automobile accidents killed 32,500 Americans and injured 1,365,000 in 1947, it was reported this week.

Canadian corporations — that is, "big business"—took about $328,000,000 more in profits, before taxation, in 1947 than they did in the year previous, it has been estimated.—Vancouver Typo Bulletin, May 7, 1948.

Scots Foreigners?

As John Hart, native of Ireland, left the B. C. premiership at the end of 1947, Canada now has only one foreign-born premier — Douglas of Saskatchewan, native of Scotland.—News Herald.

U.N. Made Absurd

"Canada stood with her friends for the partition of Palestine", points out the Halifax Chronicle. "Without an international force to implement the decision in that area, U.N. has been made to look a little absurd. . ."

Serious Crisis

From the Edmonton Bulletin comes the grave warning that "through the obscurity (around Lake Success) looms up the fact that the United Nations Organization is facing a crisis, the most serious in its brief career and serious enough to threaten its disintegration. If it cannot keep peace and work out a solution in Palestine, what country—big or little—will have any faith in its power to regulate and conciliate in any other theatre?"

U.N. Army Urged

Calling for the immediate establishment of an international army to implement the U.N. decision for partition of Palestine, the Guelph Mercury and Chatham Daily News say in an editorial:

"It is quite evident what will happen if nothing is done. The Jews will have a bad time of it, even if they are supplied with arms after the British leave. They will be greatly outnumbered by an international army of invading Arabs.

"U.N. prestige will receive a heavy blow. The Palestine question finally found Washington and Moscow in agreement. That was encouraging. But if the U.N. is to bow before the first challenge of its first major decision, it may collapse like the League of Nations—only much faster.

"It seems certain that the blustering Arab front would dissolve before any concerted show of power. By modern military standards, the Arabs' equipment is primitive. Their threats and sabre-rattling are directed toward the nations that are their best customers. It is unlikely that, in a showdown, they would want to cut themselves off from their major source of revenue.

"But any enforcement action must come through the U.N. If individual governments should intervene, the present suspicions and ambitions would increase. They might sow the seeds for World War III. So there is only one choice. The U.N. must act, and act quickly".

Building Trades Council Notes

(By H. W. WATTS)

Through the medium of the Building Trades Council, affiliated unions are meeting members of the General Contractors Association and the Building and Construction Industries Exchange to negotiate a wage increase of 25c per hour, to become effective at the expiration of present agreements of the affiliated unions. Agreements expire at various times during the year, but by obtaining a general wage increase at one date, contractors will be able to figure jobs at the wages that become effective after the job has been started.

Two Weeks Holiday

Two weeks holiday with pay is also being asked for in the negotiations. The unions are also making another effort to get the Provincial Government to put the book and stamp system into effect. This system is now in effect in Ontario and Alberta and also in Greater Winnipeg. Efforts to get the B. C. Government to put it into operation have failed so far, but our unions are again taking the matter up. The contractors' associations supported this plan in a joint application. A large percentage of workers now obtain this Annual Holiday pay with each pay check, and when vacation time comes around, they have to use whatever funds they have on hand for the vacation. The construction industry has adopted the plan of closing down for one week, along with other firms closely connected with the construction industry, so that work will not be interrupted by large numbers of men laying off at various times over a two- or three-month period, and so that supply houses will be open to deliver supplies. This year the construction industry closes down during the week commencing July 19th. The Annual Holiday year starts July 1st, and it is hoped to settle present negotiations for the two weeks vacation, so that collections can start July 1st in preparation for the 1949 vacation.

Sign Painters Get 15c

The Sign and Pictorial Painters' Union has obtained a 15c per hour wage increase, bringing the rate up to $1.35 per hour.

Plumbers in Conciliation

The Plumbers and Steamfitters are in conciliation for a 15c per hour increase effective May 31st. The Plumbing Contractors' Association turned down the request of the union, who then unanimously decided to place the matter in the hands of a conciliator.

Electricians' Assistant

Brother Lebarge, assistant Business Agent for the Electrical Workers' Union No. 213 has had to resign the office on account of his health. Alec Tooth has been appointed to the job, and will concentrate as much as possible on inside wiring work.

Pipefitting Organizer

Joseph Connolly, General Organizer for the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada, is in Vancouver for the purpose of assisting in negotiations and organization work in British Columbia. Brother Connolly says that the industry in Eastern Canada is in fairly good shape, with higher wage scales than are now being paid in Vancouver. The situation in the prairie provinces is also greatly improved.

Work Plentiful

Building and construction work is making great headway, now that the weather has changed. Some trades are already short of mechanics, and with the tremendous number of projects being contemplated there appears to be every prospect of a shortage in every trade within a very short time. With several big projects contemplated or getting under way in various parts of British Columbia, it is going to keep the unions in Vancouver and other parts of the province very busy supplying men for these jobs.

It Doesn't Make Sense

(Brooks Bulletin, April 15)

"There is a plant in Red Deer, Alberta, which cans milk. It has an outlet in Vancouver for a considerable percentage of its production. But that Red Deer plant finds that it must meet keen competition from milk condenseries in Ontario. It turns out that the railways will carry canned milk from Ontario to Vancouver cheaper than they will carry it from Red Deer, Alberta, to Vancouver.

"The reason for the railway's action is the competition of the water haul. . . . If the railways do not meet the competition of shipping they do not get the business. So they cut their rates. ". . . Alberta people are inclined to scratch their heads in wonderment when they find it costs more to freight condensed milk from Red Deer to Vancouver than it does from an Ontario condensery three times further away."

Swimming Safety Rules Outlined

Perennial list of swimming do's and don't's for Vancouver bathers during summer months has been issued by beach supervisor George Burrows.

Swimmers are warned to:

1. Never bathe in an area unpatrolled by lifeguards. (Lifeguards will officially be on the job commencing May 24 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

2. **NEVER BATHE** against your doctor's orders.

3. Wait at least an hour after a heavy meal before swimming.

4. If in difficulty, cry for help immediately. Don't wait.

5. If in a boat that overturns hang on and cry for help. Don't try to swim ashore.

6. **DON'T SWIM** or dive among log booms.

1. Report a missing member of a party immediately to lifeguard.

8. Don't force small children into the water.

9. **LEARN** life saving.

10. Don't cry for help unless in trouble.

11. When swimming, don't leave friends without informing them accordingly.

12. Enjoy yourself but be sensible.

Calgary Prepares To Bar Prejudice

Calgary, Alta.—(CLR)—A move to petition the Provincial Government for amendment to the city charter so that a by-law can be enacted prohibiting the operators of theatres, public halls, restaurants or hotels from discriminating against anyone seeking admission because of race, creed, or color, was made here recently.

Subway drama: "Aren't you afraid your little boy will be crushed?"

"Not a chance, lady. He bites."

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Americans Are Headed For Disillusionment

Americans need to be warned about . . . words and ideas which look much alike but have different effects. For example, Americans often confuse size with importance . . . speed with progress . . . money with wealth . . . authority with wisdom . . . religion with theology . . . excitement with pleasure. . . .

Music, drama and the other arts . . . have been invaded by sensationalism. Human friendship and love between men and women have been perverted . . . into mere physical excitement. Are we . . . headed for a debauch of excitement which will result in the sickness of disillusionment and the headache of regret?—Carter Davidson, president, Schenectady Union College.

Poor, And Proud Of It!

(Clio in The Lady)

An American girl visitor confesses that what has surprised her most about the British at home is that they do not pretend to be any better off than they are. She admits that she is rather disappointed. Having long delighted in the classic English novels, she had assumed that genteel poverty was still rife and that she would meet people who would rather perish than own up that they lived frugally from compulsion. Instead, of course, she found us all screaming at the tops of our voices that we could not afford this or that and proudly exhibiting the holes in the carpet instead of putting a mat over them.

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Religion In The Schools

By W. ALSBURY

Have you given any thought to the introduction of religion in our public school system? What effect will religion in the schools have on our democratic principle of Freedom of Religion? Will the simple procedure of Bible reading in B.C. schools eventually bring dissension, strife and religious intolerance and a demand for separate public schools for the various religious sects?

This subject is a highly controversial one. Surely, that in itself should warn thinking people to reflect deeply before endorsing any proposal for bringing into our democratic public schools system this contentious subject of religion.

First, let us make a brief survey of the situation in the United States. There, as in Canada, there is no established church. Long and bitter struggles in the old world were necessary to bring the separation of Church and State. The early immigrants were largely peoples seeking relief from religious oppression. Their deep conviction that theirs was the "right" religion and their intolerance led to the First Amendment of the Constitution to "make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

Attempts to introduce religion in the American schools have been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. As recent as March 25 of this year, the Supreme Court handed down a similar decision in regard to religion in the schools of the city of Champaign, Illinois.

A number of American cities have introduced a system whereby students are released from classes to take religious instruction given by various denominations. This has led to many unhappy experiences and has stirred up religious intolerance and prejudice among students where the spirit of harmony had previously existed. The conflict over religion in the schools is raging in many parts of the U.S. at the present time.

The inevitable result of such religious prejudice among school children is a demand by parents and religious leaders for sectarian schools supported by public funds. Catholics have on many occasions expressed the desire for separate schools.

To give just one example close to home, the Catholics in a nearby city in Washington are agitating for the municipal authorities to supply means of transportation for Catholic children to go to the parochial school at the outskirts of the city. If this request is granted, then the concession will be a stepping-stone towards the recognition of parochial schools as an integral part of the public school system. If this principle is accepted, surely one must in fairness grant that government funds should be available also for schools for those of other faiths.

In British Columbia, regulations require the reading of selected passages each day from the Bible. At first glance, this appears to be a worthwhile procedure which can do no harm but may do some good.

But that is not the case. All creeds do not accept the Protestant Bible now in use in the schools. Certain Protestant sects consider it "wrong" to have their Bible read by an "unbeliever", that is, a non-member of their sect. Already, in the seemingly innocuous reading of selected Bible passages there is an infringement of the democratic principle of Freedom of Religion.

Of course, those whose spiritual being suffers from this treatment have the right to leave the classroom. Surely no one can defend a practice which inflicts conspicuousness and humiliation on a sensitive youngster by requiring him to leave the room in the presence of his fellows. Mamie Maloney in a recent article declared that children leaving the classroom to take sectarian religious instruction in New York are scornfully greeted with shouts of "there go the Micks."

What parent would not be outraged whose child, because of religious beliefs (however foolish, misguided and silly they may appear to us) must in the presence of his fellows parade from the classroom to become a social outcast, a cloakroom pariah, suffering the torments of hell during the daily Bible session.

Parents whose children are subjected to such humiliation are entirely justified in demanding that public funds be made available for parochial schools.

The solution is not separate schools but is the removal of the causes which lead to this demand.

Surely this situation is an indictment of those well-intentioned but misguided religious zealots whose spiritual devotion has brought in its wake intolerance and a denial of the very spirit of Christ.

The answer to the problem of spiritual guidance for children is not the regimentation of religion in the schools, but more religion in the churches and in the homes. Parents and church leaders must assume their rightful responsibilities in this regard.

The introduction of religion in the schools was requested and supported by well-meaning individuals who realized the pressing need for spiritual guidance for children.

When churchmen realized that many children never attended church services nor read the Bible there was an outcry for religion in the schools. Unfortunately, this will not remedy the situation but will bring other and more serious consequences.

Religion in the schools can only lead to dissension and disunity in the country. Religious differences have been the source of bitter and bloody conflicts down through the ages. Many Christian sects have fundamental differences in beliefs and interpretations of the Bible, and even Protestants are divided into numerous and often highly antagonistic groups.

The public schools system, maintained by public taxation, has been one common group of democracy. We must preserve our democracy by stressing those things in which we are all in agreement. Full support has been given to our public school system on a secular basis. Parents, workers, teachers, trade unions, and many other organizations comprising Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Confucianists, etc., have consistently demanded more and better schools. This common agreement and generous support can only continue so long as our schools are non-sectarian.

In the interests of democracy, in the interests of education, progress, harmony and peace, let us keep our schools on a secular basis. Let us leave religion to the individual, to the parent and to the churches where it rightfully belongs.

This article is not prompted by impiety or animosity towards religion. On the contrary, it is in support of the conviction that religious beliefs are sacred to the individual and should in no way be moulded or hampered by compulsion. It is also written in the hope that public education be not retarded by religious conflicts. And lastly, it is written with the desire that democracy be allowed to grow and expand in order to unify our heterogeneous population into a strong, virile nation to withstand the onslaughts of anti-democratic forces so prevalent in the present troubled world.

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Political and Educational Achievement

From an Address by HON. JOHN THORNE, New Zealand's High Commissioner to Canada, Delivered to Canadian Clubs in Western Canada

It will be noted from what I have just said that from its earliest days under white occupation, New Zealand has been guided by democratic principles, and any study of the history will show that, from the beginning, the best of its people have been animated by the idea that good citizenship, sustained industry and prosperity largely depend on the widest political freedom and a good education, together with just and humane economic conditions.

A few facts will indicate part of our achievement. New Zealand's population is slightly more than 1,750,000—104,000 of whom are Maoris.

In 1879 adult male suffrage was enacted and in 1893 our women were enfranchised. In 1867, legislation was passed giving the Maoris separate parliamentary representation. Today every man and woman over 21, including the Maoris, has the right to vote in the Parliamentary elections. The Maoris elect four of their race to a House of 80 Representatives, and one of their Members of Parliament is a member of the Cabinet. Politically speaking, therefore, democracy has a 100 per cent application in New Zealand.

As to our educational system, the principle towards which New Zealand has been working is that educational facilities should be free from the kindergarten to the university, and with some qualifications as to accrediting and examinations, this aim has now virtually been reached. Although there are some private schools, mainly run by religious institutions, at least nine out of very ten children attend the state schools, which are of the primary, post primary, technical and university character. The state education system is free, secular and compulsory, and has been so from the year of its introduction.

Roughly 250,000 children attend our primary schools, and as each of them is an asset to the state, the education and health departments look after their health as well as care for their minds. They all receive a pint of milk daily, or where circumstances make this difficult, other milk products, and in the apple season an apple a day to each school child is provided at the public expense. In addition, a free dental service, staffed by hundreds of dental nurses trained by the Government for the purpose, is supplied, and last year 168,000 children in 2203 schools received dental attention in clinics attached to the schools. All these services are, of course, enjoyed by the Maori children.

The Government recently announced its intention to extend the dental service to adolescents up to 19 years of age as a benefit paid for from the Social Security Fund, and this has been approved by the organizations of the dentists in private practice.

Social Security

Now that I have mentioned social security, you may be interested if I say this about it: Its aim is to prevent in New Zealand the poverty that can result from the hazards of life and any weakness in our economy, and its effect has been to turn our dominion into a friendly society, with a compulsory membership that covers the entire population.

The Social Security Fund is raised by a tax of 7½ per cent on wages, salaries and all other forms of income. The money so provided is subsidized from the consolidated fund, with the result that this year approximately £45,000,000 will be available to pay for the benefits set out in the legislation.

These benefits are of a dual character—those paid in money, such as universal superannuation, and benefits for old age, chronic invalidity, widowhood, miner's phthisis, family allowances, sickness, and unemployment:— and those received as free maternity treatment, free medical attention in the public hospitals, next to free attention by the medical practitioners in private practice, and free medicines. The fact is that the Social Security Act is the most popular piece of legislation passed by any New Zealand Government, no political party is opposed to it, and the cost can be borne without financial inconvenience so long as our industries by sustained and intelligent work can maintain and increase our present national income. (£320,000,000 last year.)

Trade With Canada

This brings me to a matter in which you will be all acutely interested, that is the trade between New Zealand and Canada. Much as we would like to increase it there have been difficulties. I am dealing now with the difficulty that existed before Britain recently refused to convert sterling into dollars. In the past nine years, New Zealand has exported to Canada goods to the value of £21,634,000 and imported from Canada commodities valued at £43,637,000. In this period New Zealand's adverse balance of trade with Canada has amounted to £22,205,000. (At 4 dollars to the pound nearly $90,000,000.)

In 1946 the position was:

New Zealand exports to Canada	£2,689,000
New Zealand imports from Canada	£4,656,000
Adverse Trading Balance for New Zealand	£1,967,000

or supposing our pound stood at $4, an adverse balance against New Zealand of about $8,000,000. In the first six months of 1947 our adverse trading balance with Canada was £2,750,000.

Now the balance can only be paid for with dollars, and the only place from which New Zealand can get dollars is the British dollar pool. If, therefore, New Zealand has to be restrained in purchasing from Canada, it may be because of a feeling that Great Britain needs the dollars more than we do.

Apparently New Zealand is very much in the same trading position with Canada, as Canada is with the United States. The United States European Recovery Plan will certainly ease our position and this will be a matter for gratification because New Zealand sincerely wishes to increase her trade with Canada.

Conclusion

May I, in conclusion, turn from this business of money-making and the accumulation of wealth to refer to something of even greater concern to us all as individuals. We are living in a world where mundane considerations like these might become meaningless over night.

Men can build a great city and put into it generations of work, genius, and loving care, but an atomic bomb may be dropped on it, and in a flash it may be shattered, along with the men, women and children who gave it life.

I have wondered lately whether mankind has learnt very much from the two tragedies, the two world was it has suffered within our generation, but I personally am certain of a few things: One is that the unity, strength, democratic traditions and way of life of the British Commonwealth are examples that can serve the civilization of the world, and another is that if we really do want peace, the United Nations must be given power and virtually by active, informed and resolute public opinion. We believe this in New Zealand. As you know at San Francisco our Prime Minister, Peter Fraser, played an outstanding role in the initiation of the United Nations. His reason was very simple. He knew, as we all do, that with the atomic bomb and worse in the offing, a potent alternative to the courses that lead to war must be found, or trade and industry declarations against fear and want, Atlantic Charters and so forth may easily become myths, and men be too broken and terrified and ruined even to feel cynical about them.

Well, let Canada, your great land, and New Zealand, in any case join hands across the seas, strengthen the ties of sympathy and understanding, and so far as opportunity serves us, work to make our world truly one wrold in which men can co-operate in peace and be sure that their industry, their genius, their science and arts will bring the mall the good and happy life.

"Mother, what is a trousseau?" inquired a six-year-old girl of her mother. The mother looked across the room at her husband, who was hiding behind a paper, and said: "A trousseau is the clothes the bride wears for six or seven years after she is married."—Kingman Journal.

"Build British Columbia Payrolls"

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Is work with the construction gang,
Not with the 'wreckin' crew.
—Maurine Hathaway.

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On Capital Hill

"It is strange how many there are in the house who, whenever a subsidy is offered with which they do not agree, get up and argue against the general principle of paying subsidies at all, and yet in some cases readily agree to a subsidy payment. In this connection may I read a paragraph, commenting on the action of the government—not on the action of the house, Mr. Speaker—from the Toronto Daily Star of April 20? This, I may say, was on the financial page and was written by the financial editor:

"'Business is very apt today at criticizing government subsidies to the people. The fact remains, however, that business itself is not adverse to soliciting government help in reaching an objective it considers desirable. The subsidy to gold mines is but one of many instances where this principle applies.

"'Another is the government guarantee of loans made by insurance companies under the National Housing Act. To encourage home construction, a desirable social objective, the government assumes the risk for the entire loan, although the insurance companies nevertheless receive a five per cent return on the money they advance.'" — Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).

Men with pre-war minds dodge post-war facts.

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To Union Secretaries And Union Members

The attention of union officials and members is drawn to the firm of Harold Edwards Ltd., of 705 West Broadway, who is the only Funeral Home in Vancouver having a closed shop agreement with the Embalmers, Undertakers and Assistants' Union. Although other firms employ union members, they do not have agreements, which makes them 100 per cent union firms.

Organized labor will give assistance to the union, by asking other than the Harold Edwards firm if they have a closed shop agreement with the union, and by suggesting that you want to give preference to a 100 per cent union firm.

Clear Track

Girl: "Do you have any green lipstick?"

Druggist: "Green lipstick?"

Girl: "Yes, a railroad man is calling on me tonight!"

Former IBEW Pres. In Realty Business

Frank Looney, former president of the Vancouver local of the Electrical Workers' Union, has had to give up work as a lineman, and is now connected with the Carlton Realty, at 3643 Kingsway.

He would like to have his old friends in the Union turn any business they can his way, and extends the same suggestion to any other members of organized labor.

He can be contacted either at the shop opposite the Dexter Telephone Building, or at his home at Dexter 0672-Y. The firm can handle business in any part of Greater Vancouver. List your property with them or contact them if you want to purchase. See advertisement at top of page.

EQUALITY

"Socialism implies the inherent equality of all human beings. It does not assume that all are alike, but only that all are equal."J. Keir Hardie.

Commission Reports On Seamen's Dispute

The Canadian Seamen's Union has been the bargaining agency for the employees of the above-styled companies for a considerable number of years. It was duly certified by the National Labour Relations Board on the 10th day of November, 1944. After prolonged negotiations in the year 1946 between the Union and all the lake shipping companies, the companies concerned in this dispute (who adopted an attitude differing from that of their competitors) finally entered into an agreement by filing a copy with the Minister of Labour, together with an expression of willingness to be bound by its contents. In the year 1947, a number of disputes arose between these companies and the Union. A Board of Arbitration was set up in accordance with the provisions of the agreement of 1946. The award of the Board was not accepted by the companies after the companies had failed to appoint an arbitrator in accordance with their agreement. Subsequently, the Chairman of the present Board of Commissioners was appointed a conciliator. As a consequence of his meetings with the parties, and particularly as a result of the intervention of yourself, Mr. MacNamara, Mr. Maclean and Mr. Percy Bengough, a form of settlement was made and continued until the closing of navigation in 1947.

After the Government's intervention and as a part of the settlement publicly announced, the companies made a promise that if a vote were taken amongst its then employees and found to be favourable to the Canadian Seamen's Union, the companies would negotiate an agreement for the year 1948. This promise, of course, was in addition to whatever statutory obligation they had towards their bargaining unit and also in elaboration of their legal obligation under the agreement of 1946. The words of the ballot were as follows:

"Do you desire the Canadian Seamen's Union to act as your representative for the purpose of negotiating a collective agreement with your employer for the 1948 navigation season?"

The vote was duly taken with the following results:

Sarnia Steamships—		
No. of eligible voters	170	178
No. of votes cast	159	-69
No. of voting "yes"	143	154
No. of voting "no"	9	13
No. of spoiled ballots	7	2
Colonial Steamships—		
No. of eligible voters	170	178
No. of votes cast	159	169
No. of voting "yes"	143	154
No. of voting "no"	9	13
No. of spoiled ballots	7	2

On the 27th day of October, 1947, the companies sent a notice to the Union purporting to end their contractual obligation under the agreement of 1946 as of the date of the said notice. This notice, in our opinion, was of no legal effect.

It is apparent that the companies have ignored the meetings of the Conciliation Board appointed this year, and have declined either to meet their men or to attempt conciliation and negotiate by using the services of the former Board or of the present commissioners. The making of an agreement might have proved to be impossible. The companies made the impossibility a certainty as they declined to make any attempt. Such conduct is in open breach of their agreement with the Union dated September, 1946, of the Provisions of P. C. 1003, and of their undertaking made with the Government of September, 1947. By their action and inaction the companies have also broken the admirable, long established, and beneficial practice by which Canadian employees and employers sit down together around a table in an attempt to settle their difficulties. They have admitted that they have made an agreement with a rival organization. The reasons which they advance are their objection to the alleged political opinions of certain officials and the alleged infiltration of their ideas in the Canadian Seamen's Union.

It has already been pointed out that at the request of your Commissioners, the Union officials with reluctance and without admitting any of the companies' accusations, agreed in the interests of industrial peace to substitute as a bargaining committee three high officials of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada. The said officials agreed to act and did in fact appear before the Conciliation Board. Your Commissioners also have reason to believe that the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada would be willing to adopt the somewhat unusual procedure of entering into an agreement with the companies on behalf of this Union which is chartered to the Trades and Labour Congress, it being understood of course, that if the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada did so sign an agreement on their behalf the Union's bargaining rights would be specifically preserved. The willingness of the Trades and Labour Congress to use its offices in such a manner has been duly communicated to the companies, unfortunately without effect.

While the companies admit that they have signed an agreement with a rival union, no copy of such an agreement has been filed with the Department and no bargaining rights have been granted by the National Labour Relations Board to any organization other than the Canadian Seamen's Union.

In view of the intransigeant attitude of the companies, your Commissioners have not considered that any further legal procedure on their part would serve any useful purpose.

We are unanimous in stating our belief that the defiance of the existing law, the breach of the existing agreement, and the failure to fulfill the promise made by these companies to the Government are a serious threat to the recognized practice of labour conciliation, and are moreover, the worst possible weapons any employer could use in a dispute with the legally constituted bargaining representatives of his employees.

We have reason to believe also that this conduct which goes to the root of labour relations in this country, raises far wider issues than the isolated dispute with the Canadian Seamen's Union and that there is grave danger that the discord will not be restricted merely to relations between this union and these companies.

It may be that you, Sir, with the assistance of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada and by exhortation to the defaulting companies will be able to bring the parties together in a final attempt to negotiate and conciliate their outstanding differences. In any such attempt your Commissioners wish to continue in a position to offer their assistance.

All the above is respectfully submitted.

We have the honour to remain,
Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) Leonard J. Brockington,
Commissioner and Chairman.
(Sgd.) J. D. McNish,
Commissioner.

Canadian Unions Seek Increases

By DAVID ORLIKOW

Faced by a rapidly increasing cost of living and in view of the big profits being made by Canadian business, Canadian workers are demanding wage increases of 10 to 35 cents per hour.

Since the government inaugurated the policy of decontrols, the cost of living has skyrocketed at an increasingly rapid rate.

According to the official figures released by the Dominion government, the cost of living index, which had climbed only 18.9 points from Aug. 1, 1939, to January, 1946, has since jumped another 28.2 points.

Meanwhile, say the union leaders, Canadian business is reporting profits at an all-time high. According to the Financial Post (Jan. 3, 1948), 689 companies with assets of over $200,000 report the following statistics:

	1936	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
	(Millions of Dollars)								
Net Operating Profits	377	470	594	734	799	759	693	679	745
Net Profit Before Income and E.P. Taxes	270	353	450	565	602	572	535	535	604
Net Income Available for Dividends	222	281	277	299	279	247	240	244	329
Net Income Paid in Cash Dividends	182	220	221	220	205	195	192	189	245
Undistributed Income	40	61	56	79	74	52	48	55	84

Union leaders cite these figures as showing that both cash dividends and undistributed income, kept for reserves, were at an all-time high in 1946. Figures released for 1947 so far show no halt in this tendency to big profits.

A.F. of L. unions in most cities have been concluding agreements calling for substantial raises. The A.F. of L. Painters and Plumbers unions are still negotiating for wage increases. The Carpenters and Bricklayers unions concluded agreements last year which run until 1949, except that the work week is cut to 40 hours this year. The Electrical Workers have concluded negotiations calling for increases of 10 cents an hour.

The A.F. of L. Bookbinders, Pressmen and Typographical unions are opening negotiations with their employers at the present. To date their scale calls for wages of $1.10 an hour. It is not expected that they will settle for less than the $1.30 an hour now being paid to their members in other cities in western Canada.

Railwaymen Asking for Increase

Almost 200,000 workers belonging to a score of railway unions are now negotiating for increases of 35 cents an hour. Two conciliation boards—one dealing with the demands of the 35,000 members of the C.B.R.E., C.C.L., and the others handling the demands of 17 unions, railway clerks, maintenance-of-way employees, express employees, electrical workers, telegrapers, machinists, carment, trainmen and conductors, are scheduled to report at any time.

If the demands of the railway workers and of the other unions are met, the 1947-1948 season which began disastrously with the strikes of the packinghouse workers, may yet end in comparative peace.

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