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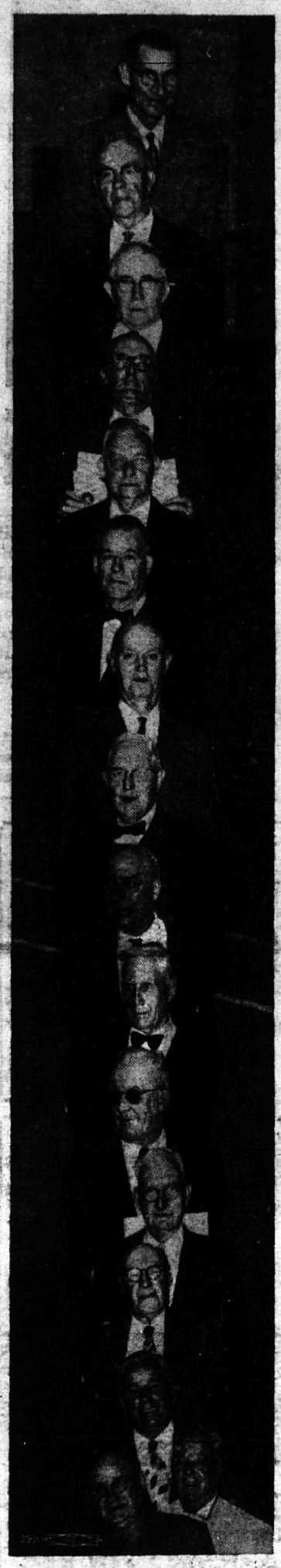

PUTTING them all end to end — or more correctly — top to bottom — these veterans of Plumbers Union Local 170 add up a hefty total of 607 years of continuous union membership, a proud record which was honored at Local 170's annual banquet in the Commodore this month. If you can't pick out the faces, here's the list (from top down) with their number of years service: Ab Chase (36), Chris Pritchard (35), Clarence Keyes (31), Ted Atherton (51), William McClelland (31), Lloyd Morris (32), Ray Craig (34), Jack McDonald (37), Howard Green (43), Jack Dillabough (43), Tom Matthews (43), Sam Smylie (42), Ed Mitchell (41), Scotty Gibb (35), Sid Bromley (38), and Harold Patchett (35).

TO FEDERAL MINISTER

B.C. unionists propose emergency jobless plan

Ottawa has been urged to implement a five-point emergency unemployment program.

The plan was urged by B. C. trade unionists who met with Labor Minister Starr in Ottawa.

Representatives of the B. C. Federation of Labour and the Vancouver Labour Council presented the jobless plea in Ottawa following the CLC national convention.

A Federation brief declared: Emergency measures are required immediately for the present victims of economic and technological advance.

It said that many people in B. C. are losing their homes because they cannot find work and are unable to meet their financial obligations.

"A chronic state of unemployment has existed now for three years in British Columbia. The situation is especially serious in the Lower Mainland."

At the same time, the B. C. delegation declared that beyond the immediate question is one which looms as a major headache: an increasing and permanent surplus labor force is being created by automation in industry.

Moratorium on debts immediately

Immediate steps urged to alleviate "unemployment distress" were:

1. A moratorium on all mortgage debts of unemployed workers.

2. Education and re-training for redundant or unskilled workers.

3. Federal establishment, under the Unemployment Assistance Act, of minimum rates of social assistance payments. These should be considerably higher than present rates.

(Continued on page 8)

LEADER of the drive to organize bank staffs in B.C. Bill Lowe, vice-president of Office Employees International Union, has asked Federal Labor Minister Starr to warn banks they are not immune from the law. Lowe has accused banks of violations of federal labor law — aimed at discouraging "the free association of bank employees across Canada."

Cheers for new party

MONTREAL —Canadian trade unionists have adopted the plan to form a new political party.

The CLC convention by a strong majority voted to call a founding convention of the new party as soon as possible.

The decision was not surprising. The idea of a new left-of-centre party to bring together farmers, the CCF and other liberally-minded groups and individuals has won wide support since it was first proposed.

The decision was made during a wildly cheering convention scene in the Queen Elizabeth hall.

The CLC itself will not become a part of the new political party. It is co-operating with the CCF and others to set it up and will encourage its unions to affiliate voluntarily with the new organization.

Date for a founding convention is predicted as mid-1961.

Angus MacDonald of Vancouver Local 213, Electrical Workers, led a delegation of about 40 from the hall before the vote was taken.

He said participation in a party would be detrimental to his union at this time and that "we favor instead intensive political education . . ."

The CLC took the iniative to form the new political party two years ago at its convention.

STARTING SOON

New VLC education program: public panels on top issues

An education program with wider public appeal will be launched this year by the education committee of the Vancouver and District Labour Council.

The decision to change the type of program offered follows recommendations from the education committee.

Weekend institutes with basic trade union courses will be scrapped in favor of issues of more general interest.

The committee said that courses offered in previous education seminars sponsored by VLC had been "extremely worthwhile" but that too few people had benefited.

"The attendance has been too small and the cost too high," the committee report said. "Local unions have only been sending token representation resulting in too many repeaters and too few new delegates.

"We are not getting our membership, much less their families."

The committee concluded that basic trade union courses are provided by the CLC education program already.

This type of course did not lend itself to large meetings and "do not prove attractive to the majority of new or undedicated members."

"We cannot excuse our inability to attract our own membership by saying people are not interested in education when we know thousands of trade unionists are attending the adult education classes sponsored by the Vancouver school board," the committee report said.

The solution was to get discussion of topical issues by top-flight speakers, the committee said.

The committee will seek the cooperation of UBC adult education authorities in planning their program.

PROGRAM

Here are the proposed public discussions and tentative dates for Vancouver Labour Council's new education program:

1. Automation and unemployment — Will you, your husband, or father, be working next year? May 18, speakers to include Joe Miyazawa, IWA research director and a member of the B.C. Research Council.

2. Automation and full employment? — Can it be done? Why are governments sitting on their hands? June 1, speakers to include Dean Goard of Vancouver Vocational Institute and Pat O'Neal of B.C. Federation of Labor.

3. Automation and recreation — How will you spend your leisure time, moonlighting? June 15, speakers to include Dr. Wales, of the Vancouver School Board adult education department; John Hayward, trustee and VLC educational chairman; and a representative from the provincial department of education.

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LOOKING BACK TO AUGUST 1959

Warnings about South Africa voiced by CLC almost year ago

(Eight months ago, on August 25, 1959, the Canadian Labor Congress warned of the impending explosion in South Africa, called on the prime minister of Canada to raise this matter at the commonwealth conference. The statement, reprinted here, was met with derision on the part of most of the editorial writers and commentators in Canada).

* * *

"The Canadian Labour Congress has on numerous occasions protested the inhuman policy of the South African government against the overwhelming majority of their people, the native population of South Africa.

"We have in recent months received authentic and documented reports on the results of the apartheid policy of that government. These speak of the inhuman conditions prevailing in the so-called prison farms and other farms principally owned by Afrikaners; of the introduction of whipping as a compulsory punishment for a whole range of minor offences; of the mass trials and imprisonments of the native population; of such inhuman laws and practices as the Pass Laws, residential restrictions, educational and other forms of segregation.

"It is obvious to us that some of these policies constitute a system of forced labor, repeatedly condemned and prohibited by the United Nations and the International Labor Organization.

"The CLC believes that the time has come for the Canadian government to speak up boldly and equivocally on this issue.

"South Africa is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and it is the duty of Canada and the other members of the Commonwealth to do everything within their power and exert every form of pressure on the government of South Africa to change its policy and to live up to the accepted standards of elementary decency.

"The Congress urged the prime minister of Canada to raise the matter of apartheid and the slave laws and regulations prevailing in South Africa at the forthcoming meeting of the heads of Commonwealth nations.

"Should such efforts fail, the CLC will call for the exclusion of South Africa from the Commonwealth of Nations."

PRETTY operator of spring gardening equipment is Pat Jusola who wins the nod as our union label gal of the month.

New harmony move between co-operatives, trade unions

A special committee has been formed to bring closer working harmony between labor groups and B. C. co-operatives.

The committee was named recently at a joint meeting of representatives with Jim MacDonald, secretary of the CLC's national labor co-operative committee.

MacDonald told the meeting in Vancouver that "the labor and co-operative movements need each other's support and understanding more now than ever before."

He said both groups have the objective of attempting to better the lot of the worker. But, he said, they have had little else in common and each has travelled along its separate road with no real contact or understanding of what the other is trying to do.

He said both groups could benefit from working together on public relations problems and he urged the setting up of a liason body.

The new liason group will promote and maintain confidence between the two movements through frequent contact and a study of each other's structure, functions and achievements.

B. Johnsrude, general manager of the B.C. Co-operative Wholesale Society, was elected chairman of the new liason committee. Som Brown, Milk Salesdrivers and Dairy Employees, was elected secretary.

Other committee members are:

For the co-op. movement:— J. H. Corsbie, general manager of CU&C Health Services Society; J. P. Lundie, president of B. C. Credit Union League; C. Harding, Mt. Pleasant Co-operative Assn.; and Ken Harding of Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-op. Association.

Representing labor: Russ St. Eloi, Plumbers; Mel Kemmis, Bakery and Confectionery Workers; Rudy Krickan, Retail Clerks; Bill Symington, United Packinghouse Workers.

How's that?

In Ghana, Africa, a union official returning to his homeland gave this report of the trip through Europe: "In England you are allowed to do what you like, except that which is prohibited. In Germany, everything is forbidden except what is especially permitted. In France, everything is permitted, even that which is forbidden. In the Soviet Union, everything is prohibited, even that which is officially allowed.

FACES — Delegates obligated and seated at this month's VLC meetings included: W. Blumm, Upholsterers International Union; E. Rilling and A. Serink, Musicians Local 145; R. N. McCrae, Meat Cutters Local 212; J. P. Hiebert, IBEW Local 213.

* * *

IT'S SO — The lie starts when the voice on the other end of the line says: "I'll see if he's in."

VLC wins change cemetery rules

B. C. Cemeteries Act regulations have been amended following complaints of racial discrimination made by the Vancouver and District Labour Council.

The amendment which prohibits discrimination in cemeteries was included in an order by the Public Utilities Commission and approved by cabinet order-in-council.

The VLC's labor committee for human rights was notified of the change this month. This committee filed a complaint with the PUC over an incident at Ocean View Cemetery last fall.

The PUC order puts a new section in cemetery regulations stating:

"It shall not constitute unjust, unreasonably or unduly discriminatory service for a cemetery or columbarium to confine its sales of plots or niches to members of a minority group which has been organized, or to reserve space within the cemetery or columbarium for a minority group with which it has made special arrangements.

"Within any cemetery or columbarium not so reserved for a minority group, any discrimination based on race, religion, nationality or occupational classification, will constitute a refusal to serve under substantially similar circumstances and conditions to those extended to the public generally."

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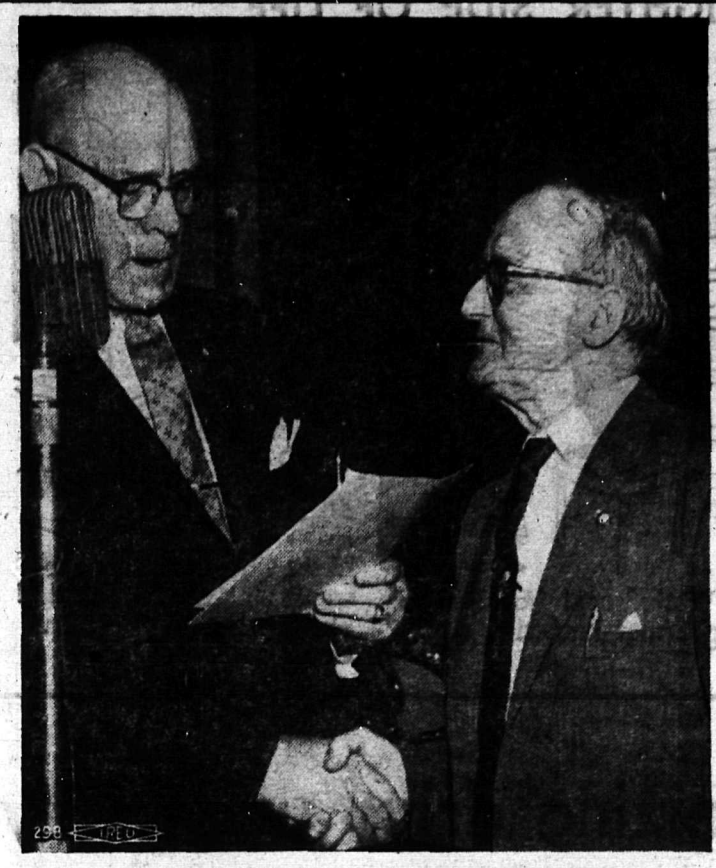

Salute to old-timers

OVER HALF CENTURY of service with his union is the record of Teddy Atherton (right) who this month was presented with a long service button and certificate along with others of the Plumbers Local 170 by general organizer Cliff Priestley at the union's annual banquet. Atherton, with 51 years, holds longest service, has been treasurer in Local 170 for the past 20 years.. Twenty-six members, half of them still working at their trade, the others retired but still active with the union, won certificates. Those not included in picture on page 1 were: James Arnott, Harry Fraser, James Hall, John Manson, Paul Morgan, James Moore, Harry Paull, Victor Roberts, James Robertson and Nelson Taylor.

PROTESTS MOUNT

Canadian boycott urged of South African goods

MONTREAL—The anual convention of the Canadian Labour Congress has called on the 1,500,000 members of affiliated unions to boycott South African goods starting May 1. The huge convention group stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect to those killed in the South African "reign of terror." The 'don't buy South African goods" move is in line with the world-wide campaign of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. A CLC resolution declared: "The actions of the government of the Union of South Africa can only be compared in their total wickedness to the policies of Nazi Germany. Apartheid is not only an economic as well as a moral absurdity — it is a crime against all humanity." The convention repeated the CLC stand that the Canadian government should get tough in Commonwealth talks over South African policies, urging expulsion if need be.

Many countries campaign

BRUSSELS — The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has urged all free labor people to boycott South African exports as an "expression of abhorrence of the apartheid racial policies."

The boycott, beginning May 1, will last "for at least two months."

A special manifesto is being addressed to the South African people themselves to explain the reasons which prompted the ICFTU to organize the boycott.

The ICFTU said free trade union organizations in each country will, on the basis of goods imported from South Africa, decide which of those goods could be effectively subjected to a boycott.

The British Trade Union Congress, the German Federation of Labor, the AFL-CIO and the national labor organizations of the Scandinavian countries have initiated consumer boycott action.

The ICFTU has 135 member organizations in 100 countries with 56,000,000 members.

* * *

Vancouver Labour Council this month called for a world-wide boycott of South African goods in protest against the government's continued attacks on South African workers.

An executive resolution urging the boycott was sent to the CLC.

THESE GOODS

The ICFTU lists these main products which could easily be boycotted by consumers:

Sherry, wines and spirits; canned foods — jame, fruit, fish, meat, vegetables; fruit — apples, oranges, lemons, grapes and grapefruit.

RESPECT-PICKET-LINE POLICY SET BY CLC

MONTREAL — Honor the legitimate picket line.

That was the position taken by the CLC convention here in setting a broad policy for affiliated unions.

The policy urges: All unions to develop a policy or refusing to cross picket lines established by other unions in any legitimate strike situation.

All unions to negotiate into their agreements some form of protection for workers who refuse to cross picket lines.

The CLC and provincial federation to promote a program of legislation to provide protection for workers who honor picket lines.

CLC hits job trend

MONTREAL — The "waste and tragedy" of unemployment was criticized by CLC President Jodoin at the national convention here as he repeated labor's request for a national conference on employment.

He said, "the trend of this so-called seasonal unemployment is becoming year-round employment.

"We can't afford unemployment. It's wastefulness and the needless suffering that it entails cannot be justified," he said.

"Any government that aims at less than full employment does the country a disservice and should be replaced."

The CLC many times had urged a conference with representatives of all levels of government meeting with management and labor to attack unemployment problems.

"I again suggest to the government that such a conference would indicate a real desire to explore every possibility and could well lead to definite and long-overdue action."

More jobless

Canadian jobless totals climbed again in March.

The latest figures were released by the federal labor department on April 20.

The estimate of those out of work in March by the bureau of statistics (on a sampling basis) was 560,000 — a jump of 11,000 over February. The NES figures for those registered for employment showed a much higher figure, 830,-691, at at March 17 (a jump of 30,197 over February and 35,144 higher than the figure of a year ago).

In B. C. the NES figures showed 77,309 looking for work at March 17, a slight drop of 2,776 from a month ago, but still 2,976 higher than a year ago.

The B. C. Federation of Labor estimates more than 80,000 are seeking work in B. C. and in addition about 20,000 employable persons are on social assistance, having exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits.

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EDITORIALS

Anti - discrimination

We commend Vancouver city council for a clear-cut decision to forbid recial discrimination in business establishments.

Labor has long sought legislation which would make sure that anyone, regardless of the color of their skin or the inflection in their voice, could purchase a meal or drink, have a haircut or rent a hotel room. Such simple acts of buying a service in the past have created incidents which were a blot on our community.

Just such an incident last year sparked city council's study of the matter. Vancouver Labour Council and its human rights commitee played a role in urging that something be done to prevent a recurrence of discrimination in getting accommodation in city motels.

* * *

The city will get at the problem in a manner similar to Toronto's anti-discrimination bylaw — by making it an offence for any licenced establishment to refuse service to anyone on racial grounds only. Violation of our new bylaw should draw a fine for the firstoffence and perhaps suspension of a licence for a second offence.

The city's board of administration has said that enforcement of the bylaw could be difficult but pointed out that the legislation could exert moral pressure on the public. We would be willing to bet that very few, if any, establishments would want to run the risk of a charge under this bylaw. The bad publicity would result in a "pressure" of no small account, the type the businessman doesn't want: loss of business.

* * *

It's unfortunate that we have to lean on laws to keep racial discrimination in check. But until the time that basic prejudices which have been learned through many generations have been blotted out, we must make sure that human dignity is something that is not reserved for any chosen group. And the only avenue is by law.

The Two Souths

A trade unionist interested in human rights cannot ignore events taking place in far-off corners of the world. In the final analysis the success or failure of colored people in the south, whether it is South Africa or Southern United States, may have a crucial bearing on world peace and the survival of democracy.

In South Africa, colored people protesting against racist government policy are being mowed down by machine guns. In southern United States colored people protesting against racist treatment have been arrested by the score.

The machine-gun argument is the argument of a callous white dictatorship determined to keep a native population in perpetual slavery. The police arrest argument is the argument of a decaying white society trying to resist the ever-widening power of democratic principles.

The white South African government has total state power inside its borders. The lily-white southern state governments of the U.S. do not have total state power. This was demonstrated by the U.S. Supreme Court decision ordering desegregation of southern public schools. It was also demonstrated by the bayonets of federal troops in Little Rock, protecting the right of Negro students attend the white high school.

The problem is the same: how to eliminate the artificial racial barriers established by custom, tradition and government policy.

But there is a world of diference between the "two souths." It is a difference between a Hitler-like dictatorship and a society subject to constitutional, legal and public pressures for equality . . .

The difference in treatment in the two souths is also a difference between a country where the white population suports segregation (South Africa) and a country where the great majority of the non-colored population is against segregation (the U.S.)

These differences should be recognized in any comparison between the two souths. —(Canadian Labour Reports)

THE LABOR STATESMAN

Published last week of each month at Labor Temple, 307 West Broadway, Vancouver 10, B.C.
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THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE

"Hello. My wife will be down and pay that bill tomorrow. ....Who's calling, please?"

"Wait, boss! You haven't got that knot tied right!"

"I see why you told me to keep mum about my $2 raise! You granted all the union employes here $5!".

VIEWPOINT

Bank organizing drive underway

By TOM GOODERHAM

Regional Director, Canadian Labour Congress

The campaign to form a free association of bank employees in B. C. is well underway.

In recent weeks, information pamphlets were distributed to bank employees at major banks in B. C. The response to these pamphlets has been overwhelming. Many hundreds of written replies and phone calls have been received in our offices from bank employees wanting more information or wanting to join the association immediately.

Each and every inquiry is receiving full and completely confidential attention.

In due course, every bank employee will be given the opportunity to join the Association, thereby taking advantage of their rights established by law.

* * *

It is especially gratifying to those of us in the labor movement to see employees defy the rash of intimidating threats in their efforts to exercise their natural and legal rights.

It is hard to believe that any employer in Canada today would revert to the crude and, by the way, illegal, anti-union methods of 50 years ago. This is especially repulsive when one realizes that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent in recent years by the banks to create the image of respectability in the public eye.

It is surprising and regrettable that some banks have actually threatened employees with dismissal if they joined an association. Others have been threatened with the slightly more subtle layoff, or reduced working conditions.

In some local banks, the whole staff has been lined up and questioned about their intentions.

Top bank officials in B. C. prepared an anti-union document which was circulated to local branches where it was read out to the employees. This document contained statements which not only insulted unions in general but misrepresented the facts and intentions of employee association.

Some bank employees have even received salary increases as high as $400 per year in a belated effort to stop the employees from associating. To this type of effort many employees are saying that it is too little and too late.

When our Canadian banks are handing out salary increases wholesale to categories of employees it is evident that they are simply trying to divert the possibility of even higher salary increases.

The banks have never had the reputation of being charitable.

In fact there is a saying many of you will recognize from the thirties concerning Canadian banking policies. It says, "The only difference between the American and Canadian banks is that in the U.S. the people break the banks and in Canada the banks break the people."

Our banks have been "breaking" their employees morally and financially for too many years.

At last something is being done about it, and you can hear the screams from here to Halifax.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Newfoundland IWA send thanks

(The following letter was sent to Vancouver Labor Council and is reprinted here in part to thank the many in this area who assisted in the IWA fight in Newfoundland).

It is just over a year ago now that the Smallwood government passed its fascist legislation in Newfoundland which decertified the IWA locals there and took from our loggers their long-cherished rights as Canadians to belong to a union of their choice.

The passing of this legislation, of course, outraged the sense of decency and fair play of most Canadians, including the entire trade union movement of this country.

Some of us were hopeful that Prime Minister Diefenbaker would exercise his constitutional right of setting this legislation aside and disallowing it. This has been done by prime ministers of this country on occasions when obnoxious legislation was passed by the province, more than three dozen times since Confederation.

However, on March 16, Diefenbaker permitted the Newfoundland legislation to remain on the books. And instead of being remembered in the years ahead as one who had courage, he will undoubtedly be remembered as one who lacked tht courage of his convictions and cared more for political expediency than for the high ideals of the 'vision' of which he has spoken so eloquently.

. . . I was thinking of the magnificent effort that was put forward by all concerned and by those who were not privileged to be on the scene in Newfoundland. And I remember the efforts that you and so many thousands across this country made toward this strike.

I want to take this opportunity to once again personally express . . . to the many locals affiliated with your labor council, for the splendid effort which was put forward on behalf of our loggers.

We will eventually win out in Newfoundland, so long as the trade union movement of this country cares to the degree that it has demonstrated in the past, that it is not going to allow a tin-pot dictator to get away with it. . . .

H. LANDON LADD,
President,
E.C.R. Council 2, IWA
Toronto, Ontario

Renewing our pledge

The Labor Statesman is 36 years old this month. Still a youngster in terms of years, but old in terms of the labor press.

The Statesman was first published on April 25, 1924. It hasn't missed a press run since that time and it hopes to keep this record going for many years to come.

Today, more than ever, the labor press has an important role. Through this medium, labor policies are put in their true light. News and views important in trade union affairs, and which rarely are published anywhere else, are circulated.

Labor is still under heavy attack by its enemies. And through the Labor press it is able to fight back, to inform both its members and the general public.

The role of promoting the interests of the working man and woman has been the role of The Statesman for 36 years. We pledge to continue this role to the best of our ability.

Bill 43 has outlawed we-do-not-patronize lists but . . .

Basic freedom of speech

. . . US Supreme Court upholds union right to tell story

A U.S. Supreme Court decision this month lends support to labor's condemnation of provisions of B. C.'s Trade Unions Act (Bill 43) which restricts basic freedom of speech.

In unanimous decisions, the United States court has backed up historic rights of trade unions to:

- Place any unfair employer on an unfair list;
- Publish a "we do not patronize" list for all to read.

The court's actions re-establish legality of union unfair ted Rubber Workers had been ordered by the labor board to stop telling people the truth lists as part of the freedom of speech guaranteed in the first amendment to the U.S. constitution.

(Trade Unions in B.C. had been legally permitted to place employers on unfair lists and to publish such lists prior to the infamous Bill 43 which stripped these rights away).

The U.S. court's decisions in both cases reversed earlier decisions by the U.S. national labor relations board.

In one case, Machinists in Spokane had been ordered by the labor board to remove a non-union firm's name from the "we do not patronize list" of the central labor council and to stop asking other concerns not to do business with the firm.

In the second case, the Uni- about O'Sullivan Rubber Co. where URW members have been on strike since 1956.

The Spokane case has seen a trail of varying opinions. A labor board trial examiner originally upheld the right of the union to "publicize by appropriate means the fact that the company's employees are not represented by a union and even to persuade others by peaceful and truthful propaganda not to patronize the firm for that reason if the persuasion is attempted to be accomplished by no more than the expression of views, arguments or opinions."

The labor board reversed this on the ground that any attempt by the union to withdraw business from a non union firm constitutes illegal coercion.

was a denial of the rights of free speech and a free press.

A circuit court, however, disagreed with the labor board and said "we consider the conduct of the union in the area of listing and persuasion, except picketing, to be within the general protection of the first amendment guaranteeing freedom of speech."

In the O'Sullivan case, the labor board had ordered the union to cease all efforts to urge the public to stop buying the company's rubber heels. The board order prohibited appeals in the union's newspaper and the union said the order

At the CLC convention

Expelled

MONTREAL — The Seafarers' International Union has been expelled from affiliation with the Canadian Labour Congress.

The 10,000-member SIU had been suspended from congress by executive action last June on charges of raiding another CLC affiliate, the small National Association of Marine Engineers. The annual CLC convention upheld the raiding charges against the SIU and made the expulsion final.

No representative of the SIU appeared to urge reinstatement.

Warned

MONTREAL — The Teamsters Union has been given a 30-day ultimatum to live up to the CLC constitution or face expulsion.

The 30-day order was approved by the convention after Teamsters were charged with raiding the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks in the CPR's new merchandise service on the west coast.

Teamsters unions in Canada have a membership of about 40,000.

Elected

MONTREAL — Claude Jodoin has been re-elected president of the CLC. Also renamed were secretary-treasurer Donald MacDonald and executive vice-presidents William Dodge and Stanley Knowles.

Banks

MONTREAL — The West Coast's campaign to organize bank employees has won support of unionists across Canada. The CLC convention here approved a resolution from Office Employees, Vancouver Local 15, which urged all unions to assist in organizing bank staffs.

Jobless

MONTREAL — A tight-money policy is not justified in today's times.

The CLC convention said unemployment today is "nothing less than outrageous" but warned that "tight money" would only slow the country's growth and cause steady unemployment.

The CLC said "neither the current degree of inflation nor its causes justify a tight-money policy. A tight-money policy makes sense only in the case of a general and widespread inflation."

Move to form new co-op auto group

A move to form a co-operative automobile association has been given the official blessing of Vancouver and District Labour Council.

A resolution presented by the council executive said that "moral support" would go to the setting up of such a co-op.

The officers of the proposed co-op have been asked to provide the VLC executive with a prospective outlining the structure and services as soon as it is available.

A row with the B. C. Auto Association in recent months saw many labor people withdraw their support.

Support for sewer bylaw

Vancouver Labour Council this month voted to endorse Burnaby's sewer financing bylaw which will go before ratepayers in Burnaby on May 7.

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KNOW ANY OF THESE FACES?

PICNIC COMMITTEE of Painters Local 138 back in July 1929 is the oldest picture we could locate in helping the painters this month to publicize and celebrate their golden birthday. We weren't supplied with a list of those in this picnic picture. If you know some of them or if this reminds you of some early events of your union — write a letter *to the editor and tell him about it.*

LOCAL 138 CELEBRATES

Back in painters' early days apprentice had to be angelic

Back in 1903, the contract between the Painters Local 138 and the Master Painters of Vancouver was a simple document.

But, though 57 years ago—and wages were only 37½ cents an hour for the painting trade—the contract had good terms.

There was an eight-hour day, time and one-half overtime after 5 p.m. and double time for work on Sundays and six statutory holidays. And painters had to make application to join the union before they could start work.

This agreement was among things that came to light as Local 138 dug into its history on its 60th anniversary.

It seems that back in the earlier years, the decision to become an apprentice in the painting and decorating trade was a momentus one to make.

Note well the wording of an apprentice paper dated August 7, 1907:

"To serve as such an apprentice until the full end and term of seven years, during which term his master faithfully shall he serve, his secrets keep, and all his lawful commands everywhere to and obey. . . ."

And if that wasn't enough for the poor lad learning the trade there were restrictions which inrluded: . . . "nor play cards or other unlawful games, nor haunt or frequent taverns or theatres. . . . Matrimony he shall not contract."

Whew! And they called them the good old days.

* * *

Local 138 officially came into existence on April 1, 1899. Previous to that time a charter was held by Local 62 in Vancouver, formed in 1889 and part of the International Brotherhood that was formed in Baltimore in 1887.

In 1894, a split between the "Baltimore" faction and the "Lafayette" group developed at the international conventon, with the latter faction having the majority support.

Unity between the factions was restored later but the split was the reason why two different local numbers had been used in Vancouver.

First president of Local 138 was W. Morrison.

This week, a local 133 statement said: "Throughout the past 60 years, the hard work and integrity of the officers and members have made it possible for our organization to celebrate this anniversary.

"This is not a time to rest upon our laurels but rather one that will prove to be perhaps the most trying period in our history.

"We must stand firm and close our ranks against the many onslaughts that are now being saged against us from the various sections of society."

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At the Bargaining Table

Fire Fighters Local 953 and District of Penticton — New one-year agreement with first-class firemen rate of $375 a month from April 1.

* * *

United Packinghouse Workers, Local 430 and Fraser Valley Frosted Foods — Two-year agreement from April 10, with general wage increases ranging from 5 to 18 cents an hour in three stages over two years; three weeks vacation after 12 years; Good Friday added to statutory holidays.

* * *

Teamsters Local 885 and Capital Freightways — Standard cartage agreement.

* * *

United Packinghouse Workers, Local 430 and Canada Packers, Sardis — two-year agreement from March 1, three weeks vacation after 12 years; five- and seven-cent night premiums; increased starting rates and general wage boosts ranging from five to fifteen cents over two years.

* * *

Vancouver Policemen's Union and City of Vancouver — An arbitration board award, majority report, has called for a 3½ per cent boost in police wages. The report also called for time and one half for overtime, wiping out the former agreement that the first two hours of overtime would be worked at straight time. Policemen also won an increase in accumulated sick leave.

* * *

Grain Workers Union Local 333 and five major grain firms — contract talks now go before conciliation board. Grain workers have asked a 20 per cent boost plus fringe changes.

* * *

Plasterers Union, Local 779 and 85 contractors — new one-year agreement with 10-cent hourly boost to bring journeyman rate to $2.95.

RE-ELECTED as a CLC vice-president at annual convention in Montreal was Joe Morris, of Vancouver, IWA western region president.

Tunnel men complain on UIC setup

Inclusion of the Peace River area of B.C. within the jurisdiction of the Pacific region Unemployment Insurance Comission instead of under the UIC office of Winnipeg — has been urged by Tunnel and Rock Workers Local 168.

The bid to alter boundaries so that all of B.C. would be administered by the regional office of the UIC in Vancouver has been made to federal Labor Minister Starr.

Vancouver Labour Council has endorsed the move in principle.

Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union and B.C. Sugar Refining — talks go to conciliation officer with union seeking 20-cent hourly increase.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Delegates seated this month included **R. Rickard**, Film Exchange Employees; **Mrs. F. Mills** and **Mrs. K. Filgiano**, United Garment Workers Local 190; and **M. Borlinha**, Vancouver Glove Workers Local 582. . . . Named to the VLC's unemployment committee were: **Herb Macauley**, Painters; **Sam Jenkins**, Marine Workers; **C. Erickson**, Carpenters 452; **J. A. Plag**, Bricklayers; **Len Stevens**, Retail Wholesale 517; and **L. M. Drake**, Oil Workers 16-601. . . . The Union label committee will have **Josephine Hallock**, Office Employees; **Alfred Brennan**, Painters; **Karl Reich**, Upholsterers; **M. D. Buchanan**, ITU; and **C. Gowdyk**, Oil Workers. Added to the political education committee were **Arne Hansen**, Steelworkers 2655; **M. Adams**, Grain Workers, and **Fred Richards**, Upholsterers. **R. S. Beck** of Carpenters 452 has been reappointed labor representative on the executive of the Vancouver Housing Association. **Jack Henderson** will serve another term on the board of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

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Unemployment crisis

(Continued from page 1)

"It is our hope that the government will recognize this chronic state of unemployment in Canada, its reasons, the vital implications of a growing surplus labor force and that steps will be taken soon to formulate and initiate policies de-

4. The continuation of unemployment benefits during the whole period of a worker's unemployment.

5. An immediate federal program of public works.

The federation brief said that these measures should be launched until such time as corrective policies are initiated to meet the surplus labor problems in Canada.
signed to protect our working population," the B.C. brief stated.

"We are optimistic that this age of technological change and the advancing age of automation can, if proper steps are taken, be of infinite benefit to all."

The brief pointed out that the working people of B.C. are familiar with both prosperity and economic depression, that the B.C. economy has fluctuated with world cycles, and artificial trade regulations — attuned as it is to world export markets and with a relatively small domestic market.

"As well as being subjected to the whims of the export trade, our working people often suffer unemployment from such other causes as seasonal employment habits, sudden swellings of the local labor force because of national migrations of the unemployed and now technological unemployment.

"Technological unemployment is increasingly a case for concern."

The brief said there is a "very disturbing and increasing gap" between the total labor force and employment, and the continued growth of production without a corresponding inceased in employment."

Jobs not increasing at same tempo

The brief went on to say:
"Examination of any major industry in Canada today will show amazing production growth but only gradual employment growth, even with reduced working hours.

"B.C., with its few basic export industries, offers the best possible example of increasing production growth with less than adequate employment growth.

"The problem thus facing the government today is not necessarily a recession problem, although a high investment policy would go a long way to temporarily relieve present unemployment: the problem is now an increasing and permanent surplus labor force.

"We have had no indication of any effort on the part of your government to even consider this problem.

"Our provincial government optimistically refuses to acknowledge its 100,000 unemployed citizens. Many are receiving unemployment insurance, some social assistance, and some nothing.

"Many people are losing their homes and many more are living in substandard conditions."

"The effects of extensive and prolonged unemployment are being felt in such other diverse areas as the defeat of necessary municipal programs because of fear of higher taxes, and a disturbing increase in the crime rate.

"These unemployed are the forgotten citizens of Canada. While production and prosperity increase, those who remain employed are little inclined to concern themselves with an unemployment problem that so far does not appear ti be detrimental to the economy as a whole.

"The national conscience is assuaged with unemployment insurance social assistance payments, both of which are unsatisfactory and insufficient.

". . . Unemployment in Canada could conceivably reach much higher levels without affecting total production for two reasons:

"First, such a large part of total production is consumed abroad, and

"Secondly, a slowly increasing number of employed with slowly increasing incomes compensate for lost consumption from increasing unemployment.

"This problem is serious now with the effect of technological change but the effects of advancing automation could prove disastrous."

HAGGERTY NAMED

WASHINGTON — C. J. "Neil" Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State AFL-CIO, has been elected president of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department.

He is a member of the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers International, and succeeds Richard Gray who is retiring from the post.

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BAKERY AND CONFECTIONERY WORKERS, Local 468—Secretary, Melvin J. Kemmis, 337 W. Broadway; TR 4-9520.

BAKERY SALESMEN, Local 189, I. B. T. C. and W.—Business Agent, A. Wylie, 490 E. Broadway. TR. 43411.

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TUNNEL & ROCK WORKERS, Local 168—337 W. Broadway, Secretary, H. Croft; phone TR 9-3231.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, Local 226 — Secretary, P. Campbell, 517 E. Broadway; TR. 6-6810.

UNION LABEL TRADES COUNCIL —Secretary, Mrs. A. E. Hallock, day phone TR 4-0827; evenings TR 4-3748.

UNITED GARMENT WORKERS' UNION, No. 232—Secretary, Elsie Hawrylechko, 1846 Nelson, MU. 1-4802.

UNITED GARMENT WORKERS, Local 190—Recording Secretary, Mrs. Frances Mills, 4755 Slocan, HE 1-9886.

UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA, Local 5888—Sec., Wm. Giesbrecht, 2284 West Broadway.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA EMPLOYEES' UNION, Local 116—Secretary, A. Leathem, 518 East 8th St., North Vancouver.

WATER AND SEWER BOARD EMPLOYEES, Lical 393—Secretary, R. Skinner, 571 W. 22nd Ave. TR 6-9041

WOOD, WIRE & METAL LATHERS Local 207—Pres. R. Buttle, Sec., O. A. Garrison; Organizer, A. H. Burton, Office, Room 210, 307 W. Broadway, TR. 6-1223.