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AFL-CIO Sign Historic Agreement—See Page 8

THE LABOR STATESMAN

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

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'The Senator Calls It Quits'

. . . From Loaves To Loafing After 35 Years . . .

After 35 years in the trade union movement in Vancouver, "the Senator" has decided he's due for a well-earned rest.

"The Senator" is Ernie Holmes, the good-natured, rotund business agent and secretary of the Bakery Salesmen's Local 189 who's officially retired from his post after 17 years.

Ernie, who's spent his entire career in the baking industry, has a long labor record. He's been active with the Teamsters since he joined the bread drivers in 1920, was president of the Union Label Council for four years and served on the Trades Council executive for four years.

He's one man who could both bake a good loaf and deliver it, too. Ernie got a good grounding in the baking industry in Toronto with his dad before he came west in 1920.

The Derbyshire-born baker, arrived here and was route boss for that firm. Later he went to Shelly's and then in 1938 was started in bakery delivery with the old Griffiths Bakery when he elected to handle the union's business office.

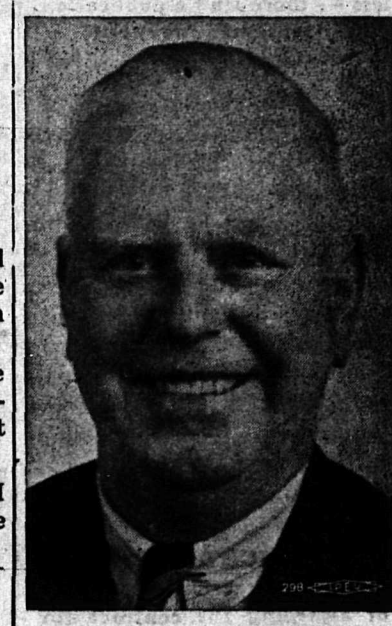
"One thing I'm proud of was our big battle to get the five-day week," Ernie told The Statesman. "We were the first union in Canada to get the shorter week for delivery men."

What's he going to do now?

"Oh, I'll just loaf around and play the odd hand down at the club," the 73-year-old labor man said.

He's kicking tradition in the teeth. Most people when they retire, claim they're anxious to get out and putter in the garden.

"There are two things in life I hate," he declared, "and they're both gardening."



ERNIE HOLMES

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ • The Headliner ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ON THE HOUSE—Electrical workers in Chicago have wrapped up their agreement—including each worker's birthday as a day off with pay. Affected are about 37,000 men.

* * *

WELCOME—As the great grandfather of all labor publications in B.C., the Statesman takes pleasure this month

(Con't on Page 2)

Metal Trades Urge Aid To Shipbuilding

Council Makes Plea To Cabinet To Restore Fleet Through Subsidy

Vancouver Metal Trades Council has launched a campaign to persuade Ottawa to restore Canada to its former position as a great shipping and ship-building nation.

The Council has made a strong plea for federal subsidies to the industry, declaring that almost all Canadian deep-sea ships have been transferred to foreign registries and most major repairs are done in foreign or British yards.

"We are appealing to you as the elected representatives of the people of this coast to take this matter up in Parliament and endeavor to have Canada's Merchant Fleet rebuilt to such an extent that we can all be proud of it,"

The letter concedes that competition from other countries has resulted in the almost complete disbandonment of the wartime fleet.

"This council feels, nevertheless, that the government of Canada owes its citizens more than just accepting those reasons, especially when it comes to ex-

(Con't on Page 2)

Garland Named By Film Men

D. Garland is 1955 president of Film Exchange Employees Local F-71 and N. Brenner is secretary.

Other officers of the local union are vice-president H. Heck, treasurer S. Pemberton, business manager J. Braverman and recording secretary E. Bronger.

VGH Members Vote Soon For Officers

Members of Vancouver General Hospital unit of Hospital Federal Employees Union Local 180 will know on March 22 who their new officers will be for 1955.

Hector Carden is opposed by J. Murray for chairman; vice-chairman nominees are C. Oldham and C. Steele; K. Cowan, A. Jeffrey and E. Thomas are running for the conductor post; and four — J. Lawson, T. Myles, R. Wardrop and William Rae—are contesting the warden job.

Only one position was filled by acclamation at this month's meeting, when P. Forsha was returned as secretary.

Advance poll will be held on March 16 in Room 108, Labor Temple for members on night shift and days off. General ballotting will be held on March 18 at 685 West Tenth from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

DONATED BY PROJECTIONISTS UNION Local 348 to the Children's Hospital was this motion picture camera which will be used to record progress of patients and aid doctors. In this picture by Lily Nelson, members W. A. McCartney and F. M. Smith demonstrated for little John Peter.

BOXSCORE

Unemployment during January reached a record post-war high. The bureau of statistics in sampling 30,000 households said the total out of work was 362,000. The National Employment Service said it had 569,582 applications for jobs.

Both TLC and CCL congresses have estimated there are more than 550,000 jobless in Canada and "from every indication there will be at least 100,000 more at the peak winter period."

Last November, Prime Minister St. Laurent told the TLC he could not accept the TLC prediction that unemployment this year would be more serious than last year.

This week TLC President Claude Jodoin declared a federal-provincial conference should be called to devise ways of creating more jobs.

(See Editorial next page)

Sign Agreement

About one-third of the members of the North West Contractors Association—group of house contractors on the North Shore—are now under union agreement, Building Trades Council reports this month.

HEADLINER (Cont'd)

in welcoming a pair of smart-looking new contemporaries—the rejuvenated "Provincial" published by Government Employees' Association, and the "Hospital Guardian" published by Hospital Employees Federal Union. Both look good, and we can't resist the temptation to point out that the prose in the Provincial is truly deathless — there isn't a publication date mentioned anywhere in the 16-page issue.

* * *

BOUQUET—Executive of Trades and Labor Council threw one to C. E. Youngs of Taxi Drivers local 151 this month, when they requested him to continue for the next two years as council delegate to Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society. The delegates agreed that Youngs be commended "for excellent work he has done on behalf of the council."

* * *

THE RIGHT IDEA—City Council last week had the job of awarding the contract for police and fire department shirts and without too much tussle, picked a union firm over a non-union outfit.

Both bids were from Montreal firms. Aldermen backed the fair-wage policy and the union organized plant of Tooke Bros. won the nod over non-union BVD, even though the Tooke shirts were five-cents more each.

Mayor Fred Hume had to admit that the Police Federal Union is made of staunch union men. "We had better buy the union-made shirts, because you can bet your life the policemen won't wear them if they don't have a union label."

* * *

WELCOME TEDDY—Long-time labor man, president of the Trades Council for years and former secretary of the old Labor Relations Board, **A. E. "Ted" Jamieson** has been named new business agent for three affiliates of Painters Union. He'll act for Glaziers, Signpainters and Varnish Workers.

* * *

IT'S A CRIME—Jim Morrison of Beverage Dispensers 835 reports nine employees of a restaurant on Kingsway who signed union cards have been fired—and the excuse given is that they refused to buy government savings bonds. Morrison will be pleased to supply the name to any labor department investigator looking for contraventions of the labor code.

* * *

BACK AGAIN—**Lew Souter,** former secretary of the Vancouver Building Trades Council, this month is back at a Labor Temple job. Along with **John Marcus,** Souter was elected a business agent for Ironworkers Local 97. Other officers named were president **Roderick Morrison,** and vice-president **Robert Knox.**

* * *

MYSTERY—Where did the lawyer who acts for the PNE get the idea that Trades and Labor Council has dropped its opposition to the proposed new constitution of the ex-hibition body? Despite the lawyer's remarks in the daily press, the council remains opposed to the constitution, and is making its views known in Victoria.

* * *

TAKES OVER — **Herb Macaulay** *who's had 30 years in the trade has been elected financial secretary and business agent of Painters Local 138. Herb, formerly B.A. for Glaziers 1527, Signpainters 726 and Varnish Workers 1550 for two years, takes over from* **Jack Eaves** *who is now Western Canada organizer for the international.* **Bruce Mitchell** *was elected to the vacant trustee post of Local 138.*

Welfare Work Needs You

Labor men and women should take more individual responsibility in welfare services by becoming members of boards of directors and serving on special committes, it was decided last month by more than 50 labor delegates and social workers who met at labor-social work institute sponsored by labor participation committee of Community Chest and Council

The meeting was held to explore the common goals of labor and social workers; to inform labor leaders of the health and welfare services available; and to provide professional social workers with information on the work accomplished by organized labor.

Vancouver Trades and Labor Council vice-president George Johnston was chairman of the attendance and registration committee of the institute, which was held over a two-day period in the YWCA

Although no formal resolutions were adopted, the delegates decided that:

Use of the word "charity" should be avoided;

Health and welfare services now available to everyone in the community should be extended;

There should be a province-wide study to look into existing recreation programs, and to determine whether the best use is being made of existing facilities;

Organized labor is accepting more responsibility in community affairs, but labor men and women need to take more individual responsibility in welfare services by becoming members of boards of directors and serving on the special committees.

Te labor delegates expressed concern at the lack of knowledge by the public generally of the existing network of health and welfare services.

Conciliation board majority report has recommended a $30 monthly increase from Jan. 1 to four engineers of Operating Engineers Local 882 employed by Chilliwack General Hospital.

Distillery Union Organizes North Van Plant

Canadian Melrose Distillers Ltd., North Vancouver, have been organized by Local 153, International Union of Distillery and Wine Workers (AFL-TLC). Certification covers warehousemen, yardmen, maintenance men and production workers.

Trades and Labor Council has reiterated its support of the recommendations of the Royal Commission for the advancement of arts and social sciences, and has asked Trades and Labor Congress to do the same.

The Big Chief On These Councils Wears A Skirt

OTTAWA.—The fair sex is stepping ahead in the trade union movement.

Sister delegates have been elected to head three Trades and Labor Council in Canada, the TLC reports.

In Regina, new Council president is Amy Knox, a member of Regina Hospital Employees Federal Union 176. In Port Arthur, Mrs. Joseph Kushner, a nurse's aid at Porth Arthur General Hospital and member of Building Service Employees Local 268, has been elected Council president; while Mrs. Anna MacLaren now leads the Trades Council in Lethbridge.

SHIPBUILDING (Cont'd)

porting Canada's resources to other countries," the letter continues:

GREATLY NEGLECTED

"We think that this industry has been greatly neglected by the government and allowed to be absorbed by outside interests whose chief concern is to get all they can out of Canada as cheaply as possible."

The Metal Trades Council said it believes that a subsidy for the shipping and shipbuilding industry would help greatly to alleviate unemployment on both coasts.

"We have the yards, we have the material and men who know how to build ships with any nation in the world, as was proven during the war.'"

R. K. Gervin will represent Trades and Labor Council at a meeting March 17 of the Vancouver Local Employment Committee.

TRADES UNION DIRECTORY

LABOR TEMPLE, 307 BROADWAY WEST

Amalgamated Meat Cutters and B. W., Local 212 — Representative, Geo. Johnston, 203 Labor Temple; EM. 5735.

Auto Workers' Union, Lodge No. 1857, I. A. of M.—Business Agent, Gordon Webb, 2414 Main St.; EM. 4104-5.

Bakery and Confectionery Workers Local 468 — Secretary, Melvin J. Kemmis, Room 105, Labor Temple; DI. 9520.

Bakery Salesmen, Local 189, I. B. T. C. and H.—Business Agent, A. Wylie, 206 Labor Temple; EM. 5230.

Barbers—International Journeymen of America, No. 120—Secretary, C. E. Herrett, 115 Labor Temple; EM. 0641.

B. C. Electric Office Employees Association — Business Manager, E. King, 425 Carrall, PA. 1212, Local 424; home, 1306 E. 15th; DI. 0084.

Beverage Dispensers Union, No. 676 —Business Manager, Robt. G. Beddome, 440 W. Pender St.; MA. 8923-4948.

Beverage Dispensers (New Westminster) Local 835 — Business Agent, J. F. Tomson, 70—8th St., New Westminster; phone N.W. 4856.

Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders, Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers, Local 359 — Financial Secretary, M. H. Hadly, Room 311, 529 Beatty; TA. 1047.

Building Material and Fuel Truck Drivers' Union, Local 213—Business Agent, H. Bonnell and J. Whiteford, 529 Beatty St.; MA. 1928.

Building Service Employees, Local 244—Business Agent, Ben Morley, Room 206, 144 W. Hastings, MA. 9452.

Building Trades Council—Secretary, Ed Kennedy, 102 Labor Temple; EX 1210.

Carpenters' Union, No. 452—Business Agent, R. Buchanan; Financial Secretary, P. J. Deplissy; Labor Temple; DI. 2720 or EM. 1212.

Carpenters (New Westminster) Local 1251—Business Agent, Robert Groves, office 732 Royal Ave., New Westminster; phone N.W. 33; residence phone N.W. 3873-L.

Carpenters' Union (Courtenay), No. 1638—John Hansen, Pres.; Robert Hamilton, Sec.; Box 515, Courtenay.

Cement Masons, Local 919, O.P. & C.M.—R. R. Baker, 271 Beta; GL. 0067-R, secretary; Dispatcher, TA. 6814.

Civic Employees Union, Local 407 —President, Sam Lindsay, Room 220, Labor Temple; FA. 3442.

Club, Cabaret, Construction Camp Culinary and Service Employees, Local 740—Business Agent, G. W Faulkner, 440 W. Pender; MA. 9828.

Dental Technicians, Local No. 511, I. C. W. U. — Secretary, Don Laidlaw, 924 Queens Rd. W., North Vancouver; North 2652-L-2.

Distillery Workers' Union, No. 92— Secretary, F. Case, 1534 E. 41st.

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

Elevator Constructors, Local 82— Secretary, H. C. MacKichan, 4633 Elmwood St., Burnaby; DE. 5689-L.

Enamel Workers' Federal Union, Local 291—Secretary, Wm. Giesbrecht, 1839 Parker.

Engineers, Hoisting and Portable, Local 115—Business Agent, A. W. Scott, 111 Dunsmuir St.; MA. 2849. MA. 2056.

Engineers, School and Caretakers, Local 963 — Secretary, George Zallo, 380 E. 15th Ave.; EM. 6934.

Engineers' Union (Stationary Operating), Local No. 882 — Business Agent, Harry Berger, 111 Dunsmuir St.; TA. 4633.

Fire Fighters (Burnaby), Local 323 —Secretary, L. H. Buckley, 4337 Triumph, GL. 3186-R.

Fire Fighters, Vancouver, Local 18 —President, Hector Wright 4149 Marguerite; CH. 4146. Sec., Frank Bain, 4559 Belmont, AL. 0516Y.

Floorlayers' Union, U. B. of C. J., Local No. 1541—Room 117, Labor Temple. Business Agent, R. V Nash, 2803 E. 18th Ave.; DE. 2439-L.

Glaziers and Glassworkers, Local 1527—Recording secretary, W. C Norton, 5850 Cree. Phone FR 4188.

Government Employees' Association (B.C.) — E. P. O'Connor, General Secretary; A. C. Bennett, Assistant General Secretary, 902 Helmcken; TA. 8441-2.

Hospital Employees' Union, No. 180 —Business Manager W. M Black 116 Labor Temple; EM. 5822.

Hotel and Restaurant Employees, Local 28—Business Agent, (Mrs.) Chris. Waddell, 402 W. Pender; PA. 7933.

International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers—Room 5, 111 Dunsmuir; PA. 7615.

International Ladies' Garment Workers, Local 276 and 287—Business Agent, Anne Marshall, 119 W Pender; TA. 5514; home, HA 5961M.

Ironworkers Shopmen's Local Union 712—Business Agent, V E Steers 307 W. Broadway; DI. 5611.

Ironworkers, Local 97 — Business Agent, John Marcus, Room 111, Labor Temple, DIckens 8232.

Laborers, Construction and General (International Hod Carriers) Local 602—Secretary, A Foster, Room 5, 307 W. Broadway, DI. 9233.

Laundry Workers, No. 292 — Business Agent, J. H. Irving, 208 Labor Temple; EM. 4543.

Machinists, International Association, Lodge 692—Business Representative Richard Osman, Room 111, 307 W. Broadway; EM. 7035.

Motion Picture Projectionists, Local 348—Business Manager, L. Walker; Secretary, Geo. Thrift, 295 E. Broadway; FA. 6862.

Molders' Union, Local 281—Business Agent, M. Biornson, 119 Labor Temple; EM. 5920.

Musicians' Union, Local 145—Business Manager, Geo. E. Leach, 402 W. Pender, Room 308; TA. 1564.

Office Employees International Union, Local 15—333 W. Broadway; EM. 4218. Secretary, Eileen Hart; Recording Secretary, Laura Ward.

Painters, Local 138—Business Manager, Jack Eaves, 103 Labor Temple; EM. 6033.

Paint and Varnish Workers, Local 1550—Secretary, V. Giardin, 745 Prior; HA. 0542-L.

Patternmakers' Association—Secretary, E. Westmoreland, 4504 Mountain Highway, North Vancouver; YOrk 3966.

Pile Drivers and Wooden Bridgemen Local 2404 — Business Agent, S. Allen, 111 Dunsmuir St.; PA. 4046.

Plasterers' Union, No. 779 — Secretary, W. E. McMynn, 4860 Eton, N. Burnaby; GL. 2642-R.

Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 170 —Business manager, Norman Uphill; Assistant Business Manager, James Barton; 109 Labor Temple; EM. 7225.

Prince George & District Trades & & Labor Council — Secretary's office 1331 4th Ave., Prince George, B.C.; phone 321-R-1.

Printing Pressmen, Local 69—Secretary Thomas S. Ezart, 5407 Commercial Drive; phone FR. 1348.

Pulp and Sulphite (Converters) Union, Local 433—Business Agent, O. Braaten, 525 W. Pender, Suite 1; TAtlow 1642.

Pulp and Sulphite Workers, Local 312, Ocean Falls, B.C.—Secretary, John Mathieson, Drawer 190, Ocean Falls, B.C.

Retail Grocery and Food Clerks, Local No. 1518—Secretary, D. A. Wade, 205 Labor Temple; EM. 2348.

Pulp, Sulphite and Papermill Workers—International office, 440 W. Pender. H. L. Hansen, International representative, phone TAtlow 3858.

School Board Employees Federal Union (Burnaby) Local 379—Secretary, G. J. McCrae, 3309 Lane, S. Burnaby.

Seafarers' International Union — Secretary, Norman Cunningham, 298 Main; PA. 7824.

Sheet Metal Workers, Local 280— Business Manager, James Walker, 207 Labor Temple; DI. 8020

Shingle Weavers' Union, Local No. 2802—Secretary, J. E. Hird, 1524 W. 65th; KE. 4428-L.

Shipwrights, Boatbuilders, Joiners and Caulkers, Local No. 506 — Business Agent, J. T. Best, 411A W. Cordova St.; TA. 8725.

Sign and Pictorial Painters, Local 726—Secretary, J. Middleton, 6339 Kitchener, N. Burnaby, GL. 2710T.

Street Railwaymen's Union, Div. 101 —Business Agent, C. Stewart, Street Rly. Building, 125 E. 8th; DI. 2010.

Street Railwaymen's Union, No. 134 Business Agent, R. C Lawrence, 59 Alexander, New Westminster. Phone 1342.

Taxi Drivers, Local 151—Secretary, C. Gower, 204 Labor Temple; EM. 5230.

Theatre Employees, Local B-72 — Secretary, Bob Foster, No. 6, 1004 Wolfe Ave.; CE. 5253.

Tile Setters, Local No. 3—Recording Secretary, J. Neville, 3231 School Rd., Vancouver 16; DE. 1335-R.

Truck Drivers' Union, Local No. 31 —Business Agents, Reg. Lenfesty and C. Solem, 222 W. Broadway; FM. 1185.

Tunnel and Rock Workers, Local 168 —Secretary William Hunchuk, Room 300, 529 Beatty; MA. 7251.

Typographical Union, Local 226— Secretary, P. Campbell, 212 Labor Temple, EM. 6810.

Union Label Trades Council—Secretary, A. E. Hallock, day phone TAtlow 2617, evenings, DI. 3748.

United Garment Workers' Union, No. 222—Secretary, Phyllis Fanus; GL. 2354-R.

University of British Columbia Employees Union, Local 116 — Secretary, A. Leathem, 518 East 8th St., North Vancouver.

Water District, Sewerage and Drainage Board Employees, Local 393 —G. Patton, 4925 Earles Rd., DE. 6235R.

Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers Local 207—Secretary, Glen Langner, 1449 Renfrew; HA. 0441.

Trades Council Policy Body Elected

The men and women who set the policy of Trades and Labor Council as members of the important committees were named at a meeting of council this month.

Here they are:

Organizing committee: George R. Bengough, carpenters 452 (chairman); J. Whiteford, truck drivers 213; Norman Musgrave, meat cutters 212; Ed Kennedy, painters 138; W. G. Gauld, miscellaneous 351.

Legislative committee: Jack Henderson, building service 244 (chairman); D. King, truck drivers 31; S. C. Allan, pile drivers 2404; Mrs. A. Halloran, garment workers 232; Miss Bernadette Gouthro, office employees 15; A. Cameron, ironworkers 712; J. Hayward, street railwaymen 101; E. P. O'Connor, B.C. Government Employees' Association; R. K Gervin, street railwaymen 101; D. W. Lovelock, photo engravers 54.

Press committee: Bill Weaver, secondary teachers' association (chairman); A. T. Alsbury, civic employees 407; R. K. Gervin; W. Giesbrecht, enamel workers 291; Ben Morley, building service 244; C. Waddell, hotel and restaurant workers 28; A. Langout, fire fighters 18; A. Coleman, barbers 120; J. McArthur, painters 138.

Grievance committee: Ev King, BCE employees 378 (chairman); C. E. Herrett, barbers 120; R. K. Gervin; V. Steers, ironworkers 712; Alex Patterson, hospital employees 180.

Education committee: Dave Wade, retail clerks 1518 (chairman); Norman Murgrave, meat cutters 212; Jack Paterson, retail clerks 1518; H. J. Bell, teamsters 351. One more member will be appointed after consultation with teachers' association.

Credential committee: G. Johnston, meat cutters 212 (chairman); Dave Wade, retail clerks 1518; C. E. Herrett, barbers 120; Norm Uphill, plumbers 170.

Dental Group Wins Support

President Tom Alsbury and secretary R. K. Gervin will accompany representatives of Dental Technicians 511 when they visit Victoria seeking an amendment to the Dental Act which would better conditions in their industry.

Acting president George Connolly told delegates to Vancouver Trades and Labor Council that dentists are taking advantage of technicians through existing loopholes in the act.

STAUNCH LABOR PIONEERS are these members of "Senior Members Association" of Carpenters' 452, shown as they gathered for their third annual social evening. Their ages ranges from 65 to 84—and between them they have chalked up 497 years of service to the labor movement. They are: Bill Forret, Archie Fletcher, Fred Gathercole, Bob Hatley, Bill Harvey, Murdo McKenzie, George McClelland, Jack McGlashan, Frank Platt, Albert Powers, Joe Spouler and J. G. Smith.

NEWS FROM LOCAL 244

Building Staffs Fight Back

By BEN MORLEY

Local 244 this month declared war on unscrupulous janitor contractors by passing two resolutions aimed at making it impossible for these individuals to avoid paying a fair day's pay for a good day's work.

At the last membership meeting of the local, members heard complaints of employers cutting the hours of janitresses in order to avoid payments of unemployment insurance; of employers attempting to enter into contracts with their employees to evade the hours of work act; and of attempts to circumvent the wages and conditions of union agreements.

One resolution would amend the minimum wage order by including window cleaners; by increasing the minimum wage in the industry to 85 cents per hour; and by setting a daily minimum guarantee of four hours for each employee.

The second resolution requests the minister of labor to add the occupations of janitors, window cleaners, elevator operators and the theatre and amusement industries to the list of trades covered under the "Semi-Monthly Payment of Wages Act"

A committee has been set up to press these projects, and it is understood that both the labor minister and the Board of Industrial Relations are willing to hold talks on the subject.

Negotiations with Richmond School Board are proceeding favorably, with the board agreeing to the union request for a five-day, 40-hour week. The board has also offered a three percent increase in wages, two more statutory holidays, and an improved sick-leave-with-pay plan. Final agreement will be worked out at a meeting soon.

Langley School Board negotiations are also coming along well, and it is hoped an announcement can be made soon.

After four-and-a-half months of waiting, members finally received wages due them by Continental Janitor Service. Cheques totalling $800 were distributed by the Dept. of Labor.

Driver Classes For Students Urged By Union

Pioneer Division 101 of Street Railwaymen has urged the provincial Government to reinstate and extend driver training for high school students.

"The government can spend money in no better way than helping to make sure that the death toll, the accident toll and the high damage costs on our streets are substantially reduced" through student driver training, the union said.

"Our only criticism of the program in the past was that it did not go far enough," said business agent Chas. Stewart. "Not enough students were given the opportunity to learn to drive properly and not enough money was made available to make the program the success it could have been."

Unwillingness of the government to act is "nothing short of criminal negligence" the union said. It urged PTA groups, trade unions, service clubs and other organizations to call for government action.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Carpenters Local 2527 have been certified to bargain for millworkers at Ace Fixture & Furniture Manufacturing, Victoria.

General Truck Drivers Local 31 now bargain for truck drivers and swampers employed by Melny's, 514 West Broadway.

'Alternate' Proposal Rejected

Delegates to Trades and Labor Council have decided not to set up a system of alternate delegates, but there will be a tightening up on admission procedure at meetings.

The credential committee reported that labor councils in seven Canadian and American cities were contacted and only one provided for alternate delegates.

And after checking the attendance records the committee found that there was no particular problem facing any of the member unions of the council, although there is room for a general tightening up on admission procedures, in the face of complaints that cards from delegates have been turned in but the delegates themselves are absent.

In view of this situation, delegates voted to establish the following procedure:

The warden and statistician will be on hand at 7:45 p.m. on meeting nights, and only one door will be open. The warden will check admittance cards, and delegates without cards will be asked to sign mimeographed forms made available by the statistician.

Trades and Labor Council has made a contribution of $25 to the fund of the B.C. Natural Resources Conference.

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"Build Strong Unions for Social Security"

R. K. GERVIN, Secretary
BILL WEAVER, Chairman Press Committee

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ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL COUNCIL VANCOUVER, B.C. 14

Vancouver, B.C., February 28, 1955

FACE THE FACTS

News from Ottawa this week reveals that unemployment totals during January hit a post-war high. Labor has continually warned that the jobless problem would reach serious proportions and we hope the government is shocked now by its own admission.

The Labor Statesman has supported Trades and Labor Congress policy on unemployment many times and during the past year has urged Ottawa to adopt a realistic attitude and plan for just such a situation as that which faces us today.

When TLC leaders met the cabinet in Ottawa last November, the government answer in effect was that unemployment problems weren't as bad as labor tried to picture them. That's been proved wrong.

Being more closely in touch with employment problems than anyone, labor has adopted sound, down-to-earth policies that merit honest consideration. Prosopals by the Congress in some small measure have been adopted by the government, which proves their soundness. But there is much more to be done.

The TLC said anti-dumping legislation should be enacted to prevent layoffs in some industries, that a broad program of public works should be planned and put into action, that contractors should be urged to plan construction work during the slack employment periods of winter and spring, that all levels of government should put better planning into expenditures.

And to establish a much-needed overall program for employment, the TLC consistently has said a national advisory committee should be set up to study and recommend on this problem of seasonal unemployment, and that dominion-provincial talks should be initiated.

At this point it would be easy to look the government squarely in the eye and blurt "we told you so." But that would accomplish nothing. Ottawa needs simply to face the facts and get to work.

WRONG APPROACH

City Council has been crying the "budget blues" for many weeks but no one can be expected to give serious consideration to its proposal to cut wages of civic employees by five percent.

As Firefighter's Union President Hector Wright stated during one "negotiation" session with Council's bargaining committee: "It's time aldermen dropped the balleyhoo and started honest negotiations."

We don't deny that the city is faced with financial troubles. The same problem is faced each year. But no alderman can seriously say that the city's 3500 civic workers should be asked to dig into their pockets to solve the tax problems of 400,000 citizens. How unfair can you get?

National productivity continues to rise and workers of our country are entitled to a fair share of this more effiicent production. Wage increases based on this fact have been granted to workers in private industry and civic workers should be no exception.

City fathers want to keep costs down and should be encouraged to do it intelligently. We can review means of cutting city costs but we must not simply force the city employee to carry the burden on his own shoulder.

Prosperity continues in B. C., and aldermen are entirely out of line in their talk of "blue ruin." We'd be in a fine economic mess if all business followed their lead.

WANTED—FROM YOU

Wanted: news items.

Readers and supporters of The Labor Statesman are reminded that the paper is the voice of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council and its affiliated unions.

Its function is to tell the public of the job labor is doing for its members and for the community. Unions are therefore invited to advise the Statesman editors about any and all of their activities.

Just drop us a line. The Statesman will do the rest.

TRADE UNION FOIBLES

"I suggest your husband join the Union, Madam, as the quickest way of getting him back on his feet!"

"I presume you realize, Wilson, that I'll have to dock you for the time you're spending in here asking for a raise!"

HOUSING REPORT

Little Mountain Project

The Little Mountain subsidized housing project at Ontario and Third-third has been the target of criticism by many self-seeking groups. Here are the latest facts supplied by the Vancouver Housing Association—

Little Mountain is now fully occupied by 224 families, including 20 pensioner families, and 431 children.

The average rent is approximately $48 per month (excluding water, heat, and hot water).

If operating costs work out as originally estimated, the subsidy per unit will be around $11.50 a month. On this basis, the city's share of the subsidy would amount to $3,864 a year.

If, however, the project had been developed privately, the city would have had to bear the major part of the cost of on-site services (sewers, roads, etc.), totalling some $160,000, on which interest and amortization charges would be not less than $8,000 a year.

Assuming therefore that the estimated operating costs are realized, the city should, on the basis of present rents, show a useful net gain on the project.

So much for the alleged burden on the ratepayer.

Criticism has been directed at the relatively high incomes of Little Mountain tenants (the average is about $260 a month) resulting partly from the high present earnings level in B.C. and partly from the exclusion of families on Social Assistance from the project .

Nevertheless, all the families in the project either came from substandard housing — much of it basement dwellings — or had no accommodation of their own.

It should be remembered, too, that none of the higher income families are subsidized. As rents are related to income, they pay the full economic rent, and these higher income families help to reduce the annual cost of the project.

The most striking lesson to be learned from Little Mountain is this very fact that there are large numbers of relatively high income families still living in substandard accomodation.

RESEARCH NOTES

The Whopper

By E. O. MASON

(Trades Council Research Staff)

"It is better we wonder why you didn't talk, than why you did."
—Disraeli.

May we suggest that Mr. St. Laurent accept the above advice?

Some four months ago the Premier spoke in Quebec and I quoted part of his speech in this column in the last issue. He stated that he for one did not believe that there was anyone in Canada who had been unemployed for any long period of time.

I took issue with that statement and this week I want to offer my thanks to the Government for informing all who can read that their chief was telling one of the biggest whoppers of all time.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics carried out a survey to find out how long the unemployed had been looking for work. I reproduce their results below:

Length of Time Seeking Work	July to December 1954
Less than 1 month	36%
1—3 months	36%
More than 3 months	28%

In other words about 100,000 workers have been looking for work for more than three months.

Does that convince the Premier? Or, and this is a pretty sobering thought, does the Premier think that three months is no time at all to be unemployed? Just enough time to sort of think about getting a job?

You might think that Ottawa would be chary of issuing any more optimistic forecasts, and you would be wrong.

Ottawa tells us that 1955 will be a better year than 1954.

Ottawa also tells us that in January, 1955, the number of unemployed looking for jobs is thirty percent higher than in 1954.

Do you remember what President Roosevelt said about the Republicans who were in office when the great depression started? He said:

"For 12 long years our nation was afflicted with a hear-nothing, see-nothing, do-nothing Government. The nation looked to that Government, but that Government looked away. Nine crazy years at the ticker tape and three long years in the bread lines."

I wonder if that will be our verdict. I hope not. But if we escape it won't be the Government's doing.

TAXI-TALK

By CHARLES GOWER

The call for scripts for the new U.S. national network television show "Hey Taxi" has received action from our local talent—so we are informed. Quite a number of the boys have told us they have sent in scripts and others are intending to do so. The best of luck to you.

* * *

Attendance at our regular monthly meetings is showing improvement but there is still considerable need for betterment. Your negotiating committee will report at the next meeting, so we expect a record number to be on hand.

At this meeting we will hold an election for the vacancy on the executive board. Draupeau, Dougal and Batkin are the nominees for the position of trustee. Our local by-laws were submitted to the International president and he is suggesting two or three changes before approval. This matter will also have to be attended to at the coming meeting.

* * *

From all reports, our business is still in the doldrums, but after looking the situation over, it seems to be holding on a par with other years for the same period. After all, we find practically all business in this vicinity seems to have taken a drop this year.

* * *

During the past couple of weeks we have been experiencing considerable difficulty with our local police department. A number of tickets have been issued for petty offenses. From the explanations we've been getting it strikes us that our boys are trying to play ball and expedite traffic to the best of their ability. What seems to be common judgment and good practice does not jibe precisely with the law and instead of taking a broad view of the matter some officers lower the boom. We are doing all we can to remedy the situation.

* * *

Please don't forget your next regular meeting will be held March 14. We have been asking for your attendance at the meetings with not too much success. We feel we should emphasize it is your business to be at these meetings to help carry the ball, instead of doing your beefing around the street corners and getting nowhere.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM

Blueprint For Action

Members of Building Trades have made a major study of housing, and everyone must view with respect their estimate that about 500,000 new dwelling units are required in Canada, and many of them should be built immediately in Vancouver and other major B.C. cities.

House-building, which completely stagnated during the depression and war years, has of course increased, but even with the much-talked of building boom we have failed by a considerable margin to meet the N.H.A. target of 135,000 new dwelling a year.

The Building Trades brief has been presented to the city council with the backing of other labor groups.

In clear black and white, it states the problem:

There must be moderate priced housing for potential home owners; there must be low rental subsidized housing for old age pensionsers; and there must be low rental housing for the great body of Canadians generally.

The Building Trades point out that a concerted attack on the housing problem now will help not only the thousands of Canadians who are living in cramped and inadequate quarters; it will also go a long way towards helping solve the problem of unemployment which has risen to a postwar peak.

For those who view with dismay the vague debates on housing held from time to time at City Hall, here is a reminder that the city fathers have before them a blue-print for reasonable action drawn up by experts—the skilled tradesmen who constitute the special employment committee of the Vancouver and District Building Trades Council.

In brief, the Building Trades propose that the city initiate a planned survey of the Vancouver area which would clear the way for elimination of the existing slums; long term planning for future residential districts; and evaluation of current and future housing needs.

The brief urges an immediate start on a housing program to provide low rental housing for old age pensioners and for family occupancy, both of which would require subsidization. But both could be affected by utilizing the various provision of the National Housing Act.

The Building Trades reached this conclusion:

"Good housing is not philantropy—it is a safe and sound investment in the future of Canada."

BTC Opposes Staff Work On New Public Buildings

Building Trades Council will continue complaints against public bodies doing their own construction work with maintenance crews.

Secretary Ed Kennedy said Greater Vancouver Water Board has construction work underway and that the Provincial Government has started a building which is not being done by general contractors.

Protests against city doing construction with maintenance crews have been lodged previously.

The issue has been put before the labor-management committee of the construction trades and General Contractors Association may give support to the construction unions.

PERCY RETURNS

Percy R. Bengough, president emeritus of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has resumed his old place at council meetings as delegate of Machinists 692

North West Supply Co., manufacturers of aluminum sash, has agreed to sign a contract with Shopman's Local 712 of Ironworkers.

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LAUGH . . . *with us*

"You only married me because my uncle left me $50,000."

"Don't be silly, dearest, I never cared in the slightest who left it to you."

She: "Sorry, but I never go out with perfect strangers."

He: "That's quite all right, I'm far from perfect."

* * *

Bride: "When we're married, dear, I'm going to cook and darn all your socks."

Groom: "That won't be necessary, dear. Just darn them."

"How the devil should I know?" he barked into the mouthpiece of the phone. "Why don't you ring the weather bureau?"

"Who was it dear?" asked his wife.

"I don't know," replied the husband. "Some dope wanted to know if the coast was clear."

THE GREAT MERGER

An Historic Step

By TOM ALSBURY

The rapid developments towards a merger of the AFL and CIO in the United States, foreshadows a similar drive for unity of Labor in Canada. This historic step has been hailed with approval by trade unionists in Canada. Their favorable reactions indicate that steps to effect a similar merger of the TLC and CCL are almost certain to be initiated in the not too distant future.

That would be a historic step in Canada. It would end the 20-year split which has been the chief source of strife and bitterness, of division and weakness, in the house of labor in Canada.

A strong, united Canadian labor movement would bring with it immeasurable benefits. The entire strength and resources of almost a million organized workers, now divided between the TLC and CCL, would be united into one powerful group and thrown into the struggle against the threat of unemployment and depression, instead of against each other. A united labor movement would be able to give much greater and more effective service, not only to its members, but to all our people and to Canada.

Another immediate benefit would undoubtedly be an upsurge in union membership resulting from a united drive to "organize the unorganized." This would be one of the primary objectives of a merger in Canada. With four out of five workers still unorganized, the scope and value of such a drive is obvious.

Much of the time, money and effort now wasted in senseless competition for members, cutthroat raiding, and stupid jurisdictional disputes, would be eliminated. The entire time, effort, and resources of united labor could be mobilized in support of the legitimate objectives of labor —full employment, high wage standards, good working conditions, better living standards, trade union and human rights, protection and extension of political freedom.

Yet another benefit of the merger into one united labor federation is the stronger position labor would have in the political and legislative fields. Just as a united federation of 15 million in the U.S. is seen as a natural rallying point for the liberal forces there, certain to command greater respect from political parties, a similar development and trend would unquestionably result from a united labor movement in Canada.

Of special interest in the Canadian situation, are the possible political developments resulting from the merger of the TLC and CCL, the latter of which has endorsed the CCF as its political arm. In the United States both the AFL and the CIO have stood aloof from ties with any political party. Recent statements of leaders there indicate this policy will continue, although political activity to influence legislation will be stepped up, under the Gompers' formula of "rewarding labor's friends and punishing its enemies."

What the effect of a merger in Canada will be is not yet clear. It is the writer's opinion that in the initial period at least, the policy of remaining independent of political parties will be adopted as being more likely to be less controversial, and that the CCL link with the CCF will be abandoned. How long that will continue will likely depend on a number of factors. It is a policy better adapted to the U.S. political system than in Canada, where voting is more on party than on individual lines. A severe depression and mass unemployment, or other emergency, might at any time lead to the demand for direct political ties with an existing political party, or for the formation of a labor party.

The need for labor unity is great. We are at a critical stage of our history. Labor in Canada today faces the combined threat of growing unemployment at home and the menance of ruthless dictatorship abroad. A strong united Canadian labor movement could make its voice heard more effectively in proposing sensible, practicable, democratic solutions for national problems. It could more effectively contribute to the efforts of the international labor movement to build a free world in which working people everywhere may enjoy peace, freedom, and security.

Labor Statesman DATELINES

Around the World Across the Nation

Labels Growing

EDMONTON—United Garment Workers are now putting their union label on garments manufactured by 12 Canadian firms, union official Mrs. Emily Ross reports.

Majority of the firms are in Vancouver.

Vancouver firms are: Fit Rite Manufacturers (sports wear); Gault Bros. (shirts, mechanics clothing and lumber jackets); Gordon Campbell (wool clothing, tailored garments); McKay, Smith, Blair & Co. (work clothing); Spider Looms (ties); Vancouver Garments (uniforms).

Holiday Win

OTTAWA—In a supplementary award from Chief Justice Gordon Sloan, employees of CNR dining and sleeping cars and express messengers of both CN and CP will get five paid statutory holidays. These groups were left "up in the air" under the original Sloan award in last year's non-op rail dispute. Holidays are New Years, Good Friday, Dominion Day, Labor Day and Christmas Day.

B.C. Short Courses

OTTAWA—The second annual short couse educational program of the TLC to give economic and organizational training for union officers and other active members will be held across Canada starting this month.

B.C. dates for the courses are: Vancouver, March 19 and 20; Victoria, March 21, 22 and 23; Kelowna, March 25, 26 and 27; Prince. George, March 29, 30 and 31.

Condemn 'Trials'

NEW YORK — International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has condemned the conviction of 150 trade unionists in Rumania in recent secret trials.

ICFTU general secretry J. H. Oldenbroek said "the judicial crime committed by the Comist regime in Rumania proves once again that the loudly-acclaimed workers' rights are nothing but empty propaganda slogans."

Among those condemned to 25 years' forced labor was the president of the pre-war Rumanian labor confederation, Ion Flueras, who died in jail two years ago.

Long Service Ends

OTTAWA — Miss Christina Mahoney who has served the Trades and Labor Congress for 48 years, has retired. She served under six congress presidents—Alphonse Verville, Wm. Glockling, J. C. Watters, Tom Moore, P. M. Draper and Percy R. Bengough.

Bar Wants Control

OLYMPIA, Wash.—This state is the latest in which the Bar Association is seeking a "closed shop" for lawyers. A bill introduced would require all lawyers in the state to pay fees to the association, whether they belonged or not.

Manitoba Federates

WINNIPEG — A provincial Federation of Labor has been formed for 107 AFL-TLC unions in Manitoba.

Teamsters In Nfld.

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld.—Teamsters have launched an organizing drive in Newfoundland and already many truck drivers and helpers on the waterfront have been signed up. Canadian directore of Teamsters' Eastern Conference, Lucien Tremblay has visited both St. John's and Corner Brook.

Good Signs For '55

TORONTO. — The Financial Post reports that four out of five business executives look for god business prosperity this year.

'Seldom has there been such uniformity among business executives on the outlook for the new year," the Post says. "Most expect that 1955 will be a better year than 1954, and many expect considerably better."

Major Problem

OTTAWA.—Both major labor Congresses have issued a joint circular declaring unemployment has been classed as the "most serious domestic problem in the nation."

Welfare Group Supports TLC On Jobless

Federal-Provincial Conference Urged

OTTAWA.—Fresh support for TLC proposals to solve Canada's growing unemployment problem developed this month as Canadian Welfare Council — the national organization of social welfare agencies—urged a federal-provincial conference to examine the needs of persons not covered by unemployment insurance.

The Council is urging all Canadian governments to bring about the conference in order to "break the existing deadlock as to governmental responsibility and also to work out a program of assisttance to this group"

The council cites reports from many sections of the country including Vancouver as "evidence of the fact that there are still a great many unemployed workers in Canada whose essential needs are not being met."

HELP TO MANY

The Council points out that unemployment insurance, including the current amendments to the Act, is a great help to many.

"Unemployment insurance, however, does not and cannot meet the needs of all the unemployed. Many wage earners are in uninsured occupations. Many others remain unemployed for so long that they exhause the protection that even the revised Act provides; still others, ofter new Canadians, have not had an opportunity to fulfill the minimum requirements of the Act before finding themselves in need.

"These are the people for whom for the most part no help from public funds is at present available."

Social welfare agencies, many of them members of the Canadian Welfare Council, are deeply concerned with "the needs of these unprotected people, regardless of the numbers affected. The demoralizing effect of unemployment on family life is a social danger we cannot ignore, whether there be one per cent or ten per cent of the labor force out of work and without any source of income"

Farm workers in Britain are seeking a 15 percent increase this year.

Every time you buy a union label article you will make Christmas merrier for some other worker and his family.

Credit Union Members Number Over 9 Million

The credit union movement forged solidly ahead during 1954.

The Credit Union National Association reports 2175 new credit unions organized in the Western Hemisphere last year. The total now stands at 19,880.

Membership is estimated at 9,200,000 with paid-in shares totalling $2,275,000,000, reserves of $145,000,000 and outstanding loans of $1,792,000,000.

Brush Workers Win Big Wage Increase

Brush Workers 564 have signed a contract with Western Crown Manufacturing Co. which gives employees wage increases ranging from 15 to 38 cents per hour.

W. G. Gauld reports that the union has also obtained a union shop, five statutory holidays, two weeks vacation with pay.

Wylie Elected B.A. For Bread Winners

A. Wylie has been elected secretary and business agent of the Bakery Salesmen Local 189 following retirement of Ernie Holmes.

Other officers are president R. Millar; vice-president N. Barwise; recording secretary C. Wooding, and trustees J. White, A. Pollock and I. Seldon.

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Meat Cutters Name Johnston To 13th Term

Albert Thomas has been elected president of local 212, Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers Workmen, and George Johnston was re-elected to his thirteenth term as secretary-manager.

Norman Musgrave begins his sixth term as business representative and Michael Stephens was re-elected to his fourth term as recording secretary.

New vice-president is Allan McLean; guard is Howard Willson; guide, Harry Silverwood; and trustees John Edmondson and Fred Nobbs.

New Westminster section officers are: chairman, David Constable; vice-president Owen Jones; recording secretary, Phyllis Thompson.

Metal Trades Elect Officers

James Best of Shipwrights this month was elected president of Vancouver Metal Trades Council, and Ed Kennedy of Painters was renamed by acclamation to the secretary's post.

Also nominated for president were 1954 president Fenton, who was absent from the meeting and L. Tribe of Molders, who declined. Tribe was later elected as vice-president.

Trustees for this year are Val Pearson of Plumbers, J. Meade of Sheet Metal Workers, and J. Bayer of Shipwrights.

Treatment Plan Authorized For Drug Addicts

Trades and Labor Council has approved the plan set up by a special committee of the Community Chest for treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

Delegates voted to support the plan after hearing an explanation from Hospital Employees' Bill Black, who represented the council on the Red Feather committee.

An All-Union Vancouver-Owned Newspaper

A pleasant relationship exists between The Vancouver Sun and its staff of several hundred fully unionized men and women, and The Sun gives sympathetic, complete and reliable coverage to all news of organized labor.

THE Vancouver SUN

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The Biggest Hotel Now Can Rave 'Union Label With Every Shave'

Hotel Vancouver barber shop has finally joined the overwhelming majority in Vancouver, and is now a union shop and worthy of the support of organized labor.

Barbers' delegate C. E. Herrett reported to council that the shop in Hotel Vancouver was the last major unorganized shop in town.

Throughout the province barbers are organized about 90 percent, with the exception of the Okanagan, where an organization drive will begin soon.

BTC Asks Hike In Minimum Rate

Vancouver Building Trades Council has urged amendment of provincial minimum wage order affecting tradesmen in the construction industry to set rates at 90 percent of the prevailing union scale.

The BTC brief presented to a hearing of the Board of Industrial Relations this month said "minimum wages of construction workers should be just below what has been established by collective bargaining" to give protection both to the worker and the contractor.

"It would leave sufficient incentive for the unorganized worker to join his respective union and at the same time retain a measure of uniformity in the industry," the brief said.

BTC said that at present unreliable contractors "undertake work at prices that tend to undermine the better class of employers, thereby jeopardizing the construction industry both for the organized worker as well as for the employer who has entered a collective agreement."

Other points made by the BTC were:

- Deletion of craft welder as a designated trade but inclusion of several trades not now in the wage order—refrigeration workers, elevator constructors, terrazo mechanics, cement masons, lathers, operating engineers, tile-setters and sheet metal workers.
- Setting of a 40-hour work week in place of the present 44 hours—'we believe the 40-hour week is quite definitely established in B.C."
- Provision that when a union is representing employees concerned, that the union be consulted before an overtime permit is granted. The BTC protested "the way overtime permits are issued as at no time are unions consulted with regard to unemployment or jobs investigated as to the need for overtime permits."

A brief by the Heavy Construction Association of B.C. asked: call out time should not have to be paid where weather conditions force shutdown of a job; special consideration of hours of work for road and highway work "to enable work at straight time between May and October for full advantage of the construction season;" arrangement to allow week-end work where there are project camps when majority of workers and the employer agree to an arrangement; recognition of over time provision in an agreement between unions and an employer.

"I thought you said your Union didn't believe in resorting to physical violence, Pop!"

Warehouse Union Joins Trades Council

Trades and Labor Council has approved an application for affiliation filed by General Warehousemen's Union, local 842.

The Teamsters' local has been asked to name delegates to the next meeting.

Wage Increases Mark New Contracts

Wage increases and elimination of Saturday work are basis of settlement on contracts between Meat Cutters Local 212 and Becker & Co., and Lions Gate Produce Co.

Settlement under conciliation officer includes: wage increase of eight cents for female help, four cents retroactive to Nov. 23, 1954, and four cents effective May 2, 1955; increase of $10 week on basis of 44-hour week for male employees; one additional statutory holiday.

* * *

Moulders and Foundry Workers Local 281 have settled with seven Vancouver firms on basis of two-year agreements with wage increase of 2½ cents this year, and an additional 2½ cents on Jan. 1, 1956.

Moulding machine operators also will gain a progressive increase in scale, depending on experience, ranging from $1.76 to $1.85 in two years.

* * *

Electrical Workers Local 213 new one-year contract for employees of Canadian Marconi brings a three percent increase retroactive to Nov. 15, 1954, and an increase of one-cent a mile on car mileage rates

Tradesmen Will Study Prisoner Work

The joint labor-management committee of the building trades will consult with provincial Department of Public Works on policy of using prisoners for construction work at Oakalla prison farm.

Ed Kennedy, secretary of Vancouver Building Trades Council, said prisoners had worked on basement construction for the gymnasium building and said it was undesirable to have union members work in close proximity with prisoners.

The gym contract is held by Hanssen Construction.

New Pact Signed By Trail Electros

TRAIL — A new one-year agreement including pay increases, a 40-hour week and an hourly rating for all employees has been settled by Electrical Workers Local 999 and West Kootenay Power and Light Co.

Eight statutory holidays, if worked, will be paid for at rate of 2½ times regular rate under the new pact, and the company will pay up to $2.15 a month as half of a participating sickness policy.

Four Carpenter locals here have been certified to bargain for employees of rental builder C. J. Balfour Jr., A. R. Grimwood Ltd., J. S. Johnson Ltd., and A. L. Ramage Building Co.

Sun Life Pays $26 Million In Policyholder Dividends

Cost of insurance reduced. Nearly $700 million of new business sold last year, largest amount of any Canadian company.

For the sixth consecutive year, the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is adopting new dividend scales which will substantially reduce the cost of insurance to the holders of its participating policies, according to an announcement by George W. Bourke, President, in his Annual Review of the Company's business for 1954. With this latest increase of policyholder dividends, the Company will pay out in the year ahead a total of approximately $26 million—an increase of more than $2 million over the previous year. New life insurance sold last year amounted to nearly $700 million, an increase of $120 million over 1953 and again the largest figure reported by any Canadian life company. Included in this new business figure is $239 million of group insurance, representing an increase of $68 million over the previous year. Benefits paid by Sun Life during the year amounted to $134 million, and total benefits paid by the Company since its organization in 1865 now stand at $2,866 million.

$6 BILLION IN FORCE

Other highlights of the Report include a total of life insurance in force amounting to more than $6,000,000,000. During 1948 the Company passed the $4 billion mark and, during 1952, topped $5 billion. The Company has now passed another milestone and the two-year period taken to accumulate the last billion dollars contrasts sharply with the 54 years required for the first billion. Group insurance included in the 1954 figure amounts to $1,996 million, an increase during the year of 13.9%. The proportion of insurance and annuities in force in the various countries where the Company operates is now as follows: Canada, 47%; United States, 36%; Great Britain and other Commonwealth countries, 14%; elsewhere throughout the world, 3%.

MORTGAGE LOANS UP

Assets of the Company now stand at $1,876 million, an increase of $46 million over 1953. Mortgage loans increased by more than any other type of investment, in keeping with Sun Life's policy of striving to further the economic and social interests of the community consistent with sound investment principles. During the year, new mortgage loans made by the Company totally $83,000,000. Mortgage investments now total $323 million, mostly in individual homes.

In commenting on the general economic situation, Mr. Bourke remarked that a year ago there was uncertainty in some quarters regarding the outlook for 1954. Despite the keen competition that existed among the various companies, however, 1954 was a year of expansion for life insurance and particularly for Sun Life. Mr. Bourke declared that the main reason the life insurance industry continued to forge ahead, was because a life insurance policy functions like a good investment. It increases in value, it provides a return on the investment and it has a market value which can be used to provide cash for emergencies and a retirement fund for old age. Moreover, it does what no other investment can do —it creates an immediate estate for the protection of home and family.

Mr. Bourke stressed the recent improvements in medical science with the ensuing rapid and continuous decline in death rates. He pointed out that accidents now account for a substantial proportion of death from all causes, especially in the younger age groups, and that Sun Life experience shows that approximately one-half of all death claims under age thirty are the results of accidents, while accidents are now the third most frequent cause of death at all ages, following heart disease and cancer. In particular, he mentioned automobile accidents which account for about one-half of all accidental deaths. The hazard from this source will become greater unless accompanied by a steady improvement in the safety habits of the motoring public. Death claim records are full of tragic accidents which elementary safety precautions could have avoided.

OUTLOOK FOR 1955

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Bourke said that Canada's national resources should continue to support thriving industries which may well set new standards of prosperity in 1955. There should be no abatement of the national confidence, for a steady progress beneficial to everyone is to be expected. "Canada's future depends not only on its economic heritage, but on the use to which that heritage is put," he concluded. "The tasks ahead may be different. We may have to adjust to new patterns and new demands, but I am confident we will meet the challenge."

A copy of Sun Life's complete 1954 Annual Report to Policyholders, including the President's review of the year, is being sent to each policyholder, or may be obtained from A. L. Wright, C.L.U., Provincial Manager; F. J. Fulton, C.L.U., Assistant Manager; A. Vezina, District Group Manager, Royal Bank Building, Vancouver.

Historic Move Unites AFL-CIO

15 Million Workers Combine In One Big Organization

It's now almost a certainty that the 15 million workers who belong to AFL and CIO will be united in one big labor organization by the end of the year..

Top leaders of the two groups issued a joint statement this month which marks the beginning of the end for the division which has hindered effectiveness of the labor movement in the U.S. and Canada for the past 20 years.

A similar move gets under way in Canada next month.

At Miami, where the joint "unity committee" held its final meetings, it was decided that AFL president George Meany will be president of the new organization and William Schnitzler will be secretary-treasurer.

The merger agreement will go before national conventions of the two groups, and will then be formally ratified at a special convention.

KEEP IDENTITY

CIO president Walter Reuther agreed to step down from the acting executive, and unions within his organization will form a separate department, to be known as the Council of Industrial Organizations.

Thus, unions will keep their identity, and when one jurisdiction is covered by duplicate unions, there is provision for "voluntary amalgamation."

Meany and Reuther declared in their historic joint statement that the new federation will immediately begin a drive to bring into the organization "the great mass of unorganized workers and build a greater industrial democracy."

BUILD DEMOCRACY

The move was hailed favorably across the U.S. and in Canada, although the National Association of Manufacturers said the merger would create a "labor monopoly."

Only labor criticism to date has come from the convention of CIO Transport Workers, which decided to disapprove the plan in its present form.

In Canada, leaders of TLC and CCL forecast that 1956 would probably see the first united convention.

Early in March, a "unity" committee of four top men from both congresses will meet in Ottawa to explore the setting up of an agreement along the lines of that reached in Miami, with the addition of certain clauses necessitated by strictly Canadian situations.

DRAFT AGREEMENT

The eight-man joint committee will prepare a draft agreement culminating a year of earlier meetings. The draft agreement will go first to full executive meetings of the two big groups, and then to regular conventions later in the year.

So far, there has been no formal talk as to who would assume leadership of the combined group, or what it's name would be.

ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

But this month TLC president Claude Jodoin said the amalgamation would be a "wonderful thing" for labor here and in the U.S.

"Labor," he said, "would be able to realize its platform much quicker with a united labor movement."

Observers in Ottawa predict that a united organization would be able to embark on a great organizing campaign which would keep both paid staffs busy for years to come.

TLC Short Course Slated For March 19 at UBC

Here is a final reminder that TLC short course in basic labor education will be held at UBC Saturday and Sunday, March 19 and 20.

Registration fee is $3 and students may register at any time before the opening at Trades and Labor Council offices.

PGE Officials Seek Definite Wage Offer

B.C. Government Employees are tempering their enthusiasm over the announced 40-hour week with a desire to be assured that they will have enough money to enjoy breakfast in bed on Saturday mornings.

An editorial in the Provincial Government Employees' publication this month puts it this way: "It is much too early to state definitely the true value of the shorter work week—until the government's position on wages is known."

The editorial states that the reduction in working hours with same take home pay is equivalent to a 10 percent increase, which has the effect of bringing certain classifications in line with rates paid in industry.

"However, there are other classifications which should receive wage increases plus the 40-hour work week."

Increase Won At Hospital In Valley

Employees of Valleyhaven Nursing Home, Chilliwack, have been awarded a five percent increase in wages under an unanimous award of a conciliation board.

Agreement on some other issues had been reached prior to the sitting of the board by Hospital Employees Union Local 180, including a $15 monthly increase for women working in male wards and vacation clause providing two weeks after one year of service, three weeks after five years and four weeks after 10 years.

The board did not recommend a cut in work week from 44 to 40 hours.

Meanwhile, union business manager Bill Black has swung into the interior to continue talks with Penticton, Kamloops and Kelowna hospital boards.

Settlement has been reached with Vernon hospital on basis of a $10.44 monthly across-the-board increase.

Report Indicates Most Jobs Scarce In Metal Trades

Mid-month employment report of the Vancouver Metal Trades Council shows:

Plumbers—work still slack; Sheet Metal—work fair, few unemployed; Painters—slack, considerable number out of work; Molders—work fair; Shipwrights—work fair, all members working; Operating Engineers—slow, many men available for start of heavy construction.

IN BRIEF

Dave Wade of Retail Clerks 1518 has been appointed to represent Trades and Labor Council on the Information Service Advisory Committee of the Community Chest and Council.

* * *

VICTORIA — Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 513 have won time and one-half overtime pay for two additional statutory holidays in agreement with Hotel Douglas restaurant.

* * *

Building Trades agreement has been signed this month with the Cloverdale Construction Co., Cloverdale, and all future work of this firm will be "union."

The firm has the contract for construction of the Haney High School.

Safety Conference For Pulp Industry

More than 100 delegates will attend the fifth annual Labor-Management Safety Conference of the B.C. Pulp and paper industry in Hotel Vancouver on March 30-31.

Each mill and each local union in B.C. will send one official delegate but meetings are open to others in the industry interested in safety education.

Stan Green of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers said the industry pioneered Labor-Management Safety confeernce in B.C. The first B.C. meeting was in 1950 but the idea started with pulp and paper unions and companies in the Pacific Northwest in 1946.

Since then, the accident frequency rate has been reduced by nearly 75 percent.

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