Merry Christmas . . . . Happy New Year

THE LABOR STATESMAN

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

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Engineers Discuss New Pay Offer

General meeting of International Union of Operating Engineers Locals 115 and 115A met tonight to discuss wage proposals for a new contract with the Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association.

The proposal has been submitted to members employed by firms under the RB and HCA and the meeting tonight will deal with the offer.

The wage offer includes these increases:

Aerial cableway operators 15 cents an hour; shovel, crane, derrick, and hoist operators, 5 cents; dozer and grader operators, 3 cents; heavy duty mechanics and welders, 2 cents; paving section categories, 10 cents; asphalt plant foreman and mechanic, increase to $2.30 an hour.

Inclusion of category of asphalt plaint oiler at $1.66; classification of concrete batch and mixer plant operator, and screen and washing plant at $2.30 an hour were included.

Balance of the wage schedule to remain the same with no increase.

Only wages were open for negotiation this year, the balance of the agreement is in effect for one more year.

POPULAR MAN—at least when Photographer Hux Lovely found him - - was Jimmy Walker, business agent for Sheet Metal Workers 280, at the big annual banquet of the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council. More than 500 turned out to join in the fun which celebrated the 80th anniversary of the TLC. Council Secretary Gervin (left), President Tom Alsbury (right), Dorothy Gantzer, Sadie Thompson and Fae Lord all joined this particular table of celebration.

Wicks Pressed On LRB Reform

Top City Leaders Confer With Wicks; Demand Full-time Board, Sweeping Changes

Demand for revamping of the provincial government labor conciliation and mediation service was made by AFL-TLC officials this week.

In a meeting with Labor Minister Wicks a delegation from the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council and the Vancouver Building Trades Council declared the government should re-established the Labor Relations Board on a full-time basis and urged action to speed up conciliation service.

Although Wicks gave the impression he wasn't paying much attention to the proposal for a return to the full-time board, the delegation rammed home logical arguments for such action.

The five-man board was put on a part-time basis last January by the Social Credit minister and the TLC has urged many times a return to its full-time function.

The delegation included Trades Council secretary R. K. Gervin; George Johnston, Meat Cutters; Ed Kennedy and Herb Flesher, Building Trades Council; Gordon Webb, Auto Workers; Ben Morley, Building Service Employees, and George Gee, Electrical Workers.

Gervin declared: "It has become obvious in the past year that the Labor Department and a part-time board can't handle the job of administering the ICA Act the way it should be handled.

ONCE HAD POWER

He said that under the full-time setup the board had power and prastige to go to the parties in a dispute with some authority.

Today, with the job being handled by the conciliation service, the part-time board is stripped of this authority.

Besides the part-time board has little time to deal with the many industrial problems.

Gervin said that the civil servant conciliators "just can't talk in the same manner to the people in a dispute as strongly as a board can."

STAFF SHORTAGE

The delegation also protested the delay in appointment of conciliation officers and urged something be done on the shortage of staff.

They also complained that many of the conciliators today are inexperienced and of little value in the job they are required to do.

Pointed out where the long delays in the process of union application for certification and the TLC officials said something should be done to speed up the machinery.

"The whole system is wrong," Gervin declared.

"Something has to be done if we are going to have any semblance of industrial peace in B.C.

"Minor labor disputes are becoming major due to the inadequate service of the part-time board."

Wicks said he would give some attention to the complaint on the appointment of conciliation officers and boards.

Building Service Employees Win On Birks Job

Building Service Employees 244 have won their fight for certification as bargaining agent for service employees of Birks Building at Georgia and Granville, winning out in a supervised vote over a so-called "employees' association."

Service employees voted 20 to 18 to have local 244 bargain for them, it was reported at the last Trades Council meeting.

Business agent Ben Morley reported to Council that during the vote the employers' representatives sat in the room where ballotting took place and "I even had to ask him to move away from the ballot box."

Morley said that prior to the vote the situation shaped up this way:

"The association is run for the benefit of a few tradesmen and the janitors, janitresses and elevator operators get nothing. In fact the **majority of them took a cut in wages** when the last agreement was signed while the tradesmen received an increase.

"When the association was notified by the LRB that local 244 had applied for certification attempts were made to intimidate members of local 244 because they saw fit to cast aside the association.

New Action On Vacation Pay Stamp Books

Building Trades Council's drive to implement the stamp book method of recording holiday pay in the construction industry is bearing fruit.

The issue has been discussed thoroughly by the new labor-management committee and this week in a conference with Labor Minister Lyle Wicks, the BTC was asked to submit a brief to the government.

The General Contractors Association also has been asked to submit a brief.

BTC secretary Ed Kennedy reports that the labor-management parleys have reached agreement in principle but the mechanics of operation of the system will have to be worked out.

Indication from the talks with Wicks now point to review by the government and recommendations on how it will be put into effect. Further conferences probably will be held with both BTC and the employers.

The stamp book system would operate in a somewhat similar fashion to that used in unemployment insurance. Each member would be issued a book and stamps would be pasted in by his employer periodically to cover holiday pay. At a set holiday period, the book is turned in for cash.

Paint Makers Settle For 3½ Percent Boost

A 3½-percent wage boost has been won by Paint and Varnish Workers Local 1550 in new contract with three paint firms.

Affected are employees of Brandram-Henderson of B.C., Martin-Senour, and General Paint. The settlement will set the pattern for negotiations with International Paint and Pittsburgh Paint.

Painters Xmas Party

Painters Local 138 will hold their annual children's Christmas tree in the Labor Temple Auditorium on Saturday, Dec. 26 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Eeach child will receive a present from Santa, free pop, ice cream and novelties. There'll be entertainment, too.

The union points out that presents will be given only to children registered for the party.

TLC Presents Brief To Cabinet; St. Laurent Support 'Limited'

Better Deal For TLC Unionists Outlined By Full Executive During Ottawa Meeting

Trades and Labor Congress of Canada appealed to the federal cabinet for a better legislative deal for all Canadians this month, but the TLC proposals on a wide-range of important questions received only limited or cautious support from Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent.

Over 100 top officers of the Congress were present when the annual "Memorandum to the Government of Canada" was presented covering proposals for 1954.

Among them was Trades and Labor Council secretary R. K. Gervin, who travelled east in his capacity as vice-president of the TLC for B.C. region.

Proposals for health insurance, broadening of old age pensions, establishment of a national labor code and a Bill of Rights for Canadians were among those items which the Prime Minister expressed disapproval or indicated that the government would turn down.

Mr. St. Laurent expressed cautious interest in a proposal to widen unemployment insurance to those workers who become sick on the job, and in effect indicated that desired changes would be made in the Election Act.

He said that points raised by the congress regarding housing had already been given close study, and said this would become clear when new housing legislation reaches parliament.

Here is a summary of the 36-page memorandum, with notes provided by Mr. Gervin on the attitude of the Prime Minister on certain specific points:

"Wider and more comprehensive measures of social security are the most immediate and continuing need of Canadians today," the brief stated in its opening paragraphs.

"Representing as we do nearly 600,000 wage and salary earners in every part of Canada, we cannot urge upon you too strongly the importance and necessity of action by our government in this field."

Strongest presentation was made for "earliest possible inauguration of a government subsidized, contributory national health insurance scheme covering every citizen of Canada."

The memorandum said Canadians generally want this service now, and

(Continued on page 5)

The Best Things In Life WERE Free – Almost

There's just no relief from this inflation.

Annual Trades Council banquet has become a fine institution—at $3 per plate. But this month secretary Gervin gave a hint of dark days to come. Like everything else, cost of the banquet will go up next year.

Office Workers Begin 'White Collar' Drive

A concerted drive to organize employees in the "white collar" field will be made by the Office Employees International Union, Local 15.

Capping long preparations for a new drive to aid workers in the large field of unorganized offices, Local 15 Wednesday named its first full-time organizer.

He is John Gallant, 34, formerly organizer with the auto salesmen section of Teamsters' Union.

The new organizer went into action immediately and sped off to the northern Alcan site where a contract dispute exists between Local 15 and Morrison-Knudsen and Kitimat Constructors.

Concentration of the new drive on unorganized office workers first will be in the Vancouver area, and probably the initial emphasis will be on firms which already hold union contracts in divisions other than office staff.

SUPPORT DRIVE

Appointment of a full-time organizer has won the full support of the union's international office.

In the office employees Alcan dispute, a conciliation board rejected in a majority report requests for wage increases and other concessions, but approved a maintenance of membership union security clause.

Trades Council President Tom Alsbury backed the organization drive in a council radio broadcast, urging city office workers to abandon "shabby gentility" and join the labor movement.

"You can obtain better wages and other benefits if you will organize and use the collective strength of the labor movement," he declared.

STUMBLING BLOCK

Long the stumbling block in organizing office workers has been the false pride that "fools the white collar worker into thinking he or she is above union membership," the president declared.

Local 15 has a membership of about 400, including the Vancouver area and employees at Kemano and Kitimat.

NEW business agent for City Hall Employees Association is Max Pierotti, 29-year-old former organizer for Seafarers International Union. The Association has opened new offices at 445 West Broadway.

Office Employees Gain $15 - $20 Increases

Office Employees Local 15 have signed a new agreement covering about 20 employees of the H. J. Heinz Co. plant on Grandview Highway bringing monthly raises ranging from $15 to $20.

BCE Gas Workers Threaten Strike

Possibility of strike action by 250 B.C. Electric Gas Workers was forecast shortly before press time by George Gee of Electric Workers.

Gee charged that company officials have refused to bargain with Electrical Workers because of certification trouble. Meanwhile, he said, the gas workers are deprived of their rights as union members and "a policy of no contract—no work is justified."

Milk Salesmen Take Wage Dispute To Conciliation Board

A conciliation board will be set up to deal with the contract dispute of Milk Salesmen and Dairy Employees Union 464 and 10 dairies.

The union asked for a board following a deadlock in negotiations as Local 464 drives this year for a standard contract in the industry to wipe out wage differentials between the various companies.

These TAXICABS DO NOT DISPLAY the Teamsters' Shop Card

Balmoral Taxi	3 Cars
Devonshire Cabs	2 Cars
Georgia Cabs	2 Cars
Grandview Taxi	4 Cars
Forum Cabs	6 Cars
Hollywood Taxi	2 Cars
Rainier Taxi	2 Cars

BE UNION
Ride in a TAXICAB displaying this
UNION SERVICE
TEAMSTERS' LABEL

"Grand Old Man of Labor" Feted at Toronto

Five hundred staunch admirers, all of them leaders in labor, management or government, turned out in Toronto's King Edward Hotel last month to honor the grand old man of Canadian labor —78-year-old John W. Bruce, general organizer for Canada of the Plumbers' Union.

Mr. Bruce is well known for his frequent visits to the west coast, and for his leadership in steel shipyard negotiations here. He isn't going to retire or anything like that, despite 58 years of uninterrupted service to the labor movement.

The Toronto event was organized simply to do honor to one of the great men of labor.

And as a tangible momento of the occasion, his admirers presented him with a life size portrait of himself by the Canadian artist Archibald Barnes.

Almost everyone was there—including Premier Leslie Frost of Ontario, TLC president Percy Bengough, and half a dozen international presidents and vice-presidents.

Australian-born John W. Bruce began his labor career as an apprentice member of the plumbers' union and rapidly rose to high union office.

Before settling in Toronto he worked in Africa and England, fought his way through a dozen major labor campaigns, and was once wrongfully accused of murder as part of an employers' attempt to break a strike.

More recently, he has attended more major labor conventions than any person in North America.

Last month, the premier of Ontario drew the biggest applause of many speakers.

"John Bruce," he said, "is a labor statesman who has contributed much for the betterment of mankind in every direction."

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"To each union member the political party of his choice"

"Build Strong Unions for Social Security"

R. K. GERVIN, Secretary.

MELVIN KEMMIS, Chairman Press Committee.

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Vancouver, Canada, December 19, 1953

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE

"The Officers of the Trades and Labor Council would like to take this opportunity to extend the Greetings of the Season to all Unionists and especially to those who are affiliated to our Council.

"It is customary as the year draws to its close to look back and to try and evaluate the progress made during this year of 1953. We believe that it has been a year of steady if not spectacular progress. The growth in union membership continues and we have no reason to believe that it will halt in the future.

"Wage increases have been won against steadily mounting opposition on the part of the employers.

"But all is not well. Of increasing concern to unionists is the legal framework within which we, as law-abiding citizens, are obliged to work. The I.C.A. Act is still unaltered on the Statute Book in spite of constant representations by organized labor. The interpretations placed upon this act continue to dismay unionists and the latest by the Honorable Mr. Justice Davey constitutes a real threat to organized labor.

"Nor is all well with the Labor Relations Board. We have no quarrel with its constituent members but rather with the Government who through false economy have decided that it shall be a part-time agency. Speedy service is essential for industrial peace but we are not getting it and the result is plain to see.

"For the future we believe consolidation still holds pride of place. We are often urged to be more 'responsible' but let those who tender this advice remember that responsibility grows with strength and security and we do not doubt that it applies to our movement.

"A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to you all."

THIS NEEDS CORRECTING

The provincial labor department should realize it has made a big mistake in switching Labor Relations Board from full-time to part-time duty.

The Vancouver District Trades and Labor Council in strong terms pointed this out to Labor Minister Wicks last year. They've repeated it many times since, and they're going to keep right on —in the interests of industrial peace—to pound away until something is done to remedy the present mess.

When the five-man board was put on piece work pay as a part-time job last January, the Labor Minister proudly announced he was going to save the government and the taxpayers a lot of money.

He said he was making a salary saving of $10,000, a figure that he repeated this week when interviewed by a delegation from the Trades Council and Building Trades Council.

We would like to repeat something too: This is plainly "economy in reverse."

For the sake of a few dollars in salaries, Mr. Wicks and his government seem to be willing to sacrifice the important dispute-settling duty which the old, full-time board performed. The government seems to forget the tremendous saving made by the full-time board through settlement of disputes, savings which would pay the annual salaries of the board for many, many years.

Today, with a part-time board, there is no quick mediation service which can be called into a dispute at the exact moment that service is needed.

Mr. Wicks claims that the service is performed by the conciliation branch of his department. We would like to point out that civil servants cannot do the same job that a board with nominees from labor and management can do. There isn't the same compulsion to drive for a solution and they don't have the same authority.

On top of that, the conciliation service is so over-burdened at present it can't begin to handle its important job. And the watered-down, part-time board has been stripped of its authority.

A recent dispute at the Shell Oil refinery idled 450 AFL building tradesmen for ten days. The loss of wages and purchasing power of this group alone amounted to more than $65,000, to say nothing of the economic impact to the contractors and others more directly involved in the dispute.

In this dispute the lack of a full-time board which should have been ready to swing into action and work to settle the differences of the striking oil workers and the company was sorely missed.

Sooner or later the Labor Department will realize that industrially B.C. is now a big boy. It has grown out of the short pants stage.

The Labor Relations Board should immediately be put back on a full-time schedule.

TIME IS NOW

Prime Minister St. Laurent says he does not think the provinces of Canada are ready as yet to embark on a scheme of all-inclusive health insurance.

This was one of several lame excuses given the TLC executive when it pressed for immediate action on the health plan at Ottawa. We suggest that what the Prime Minister means is that the federal government is not yet ready to disappoint powerful organizations who are fighting national health insurance for selfish motives.

The time, Mr. Prime Minister, is now.

We know it can't be done overnight, and there will be complications with the provinces. But the people of Canada, through central labor organizations and other groups, have demanded this reform.

Even the medical profession concedes that something should be done.

The federal government should adopt the TLC suggestion that a committee be set up immediately to study national health insurance and hear every opinion. Let's start the ball rolling. There is no time for excuses.

"Kind'a late, ain't it? . . . you on overtime?"

FROM THIS ANGLE

Strike In New York

The biggest newspaper strike ever held in the biggest city in the U.S. is now over, and New York's commuting millions can resume normal business and get along with Christmas as usual.

Six out of seven daily newspapers in the big city were closed up tight when the 400-member Photo-Engraver local went out to back up demands for $15 a week, later cut to $7.50. All the other printing trades respected their picket lines, plus the CIO Newspaper Guild—and the eventual decision for the Photo Engracers will probably be reflected in their contracts later on.

The strike ended when the union agreed to go back to work on the understanding that increases beyond the proferred $3.75 weekly package deal will be referred to a fact-finding body, on which labor's representative will be none other than AFL president George Meany.

Meany also showed up in news south of the border when he resigned from the Public Advisory Board of the Foreign Operations Administration — the American mutual defence set-up. Apparently the move is part and parcel of the widening rift between AFL labor and the Eisenhower administration.

At any rate Meany charged in his letter of resignation that he could not serve "so long as the vital role of labor in the defence of the free world is being ignored."

EXPENSIVE LUXURY

Elsewhere in this edition there is a summary of Vancouver Housing Association's plans for improved housing in this area, part of which calls for government action on slum removal.

In case anyone doubt that this would be good business for the city and the nation, here are some cold facts gathered by U.S. Municipal News and passed along by the AFL News Reporter:

In the States, slums constitute about 20 percent of residential areas, but they account for 33 percent of the population, 45 percent of major crimes, 55 percent of juvenile delinquency, 50 percent of all arrests, 60 percent of tuberculosis victims, 35 percent of fires, 45 percent of city service costs and only six percent of assessment taxation revenues.

Current edition of Labor Gazette present a summary of office employees' working conditions. The white collar boys are sharing in the trend towards shorter working hours, longer paid vacations and the like, but it's a slow process.

"Changes in conditions of office workers, however, have been less pronounced than have those of plant workers," the Gazette states. We hope that white collar workers who come within the scope of the organizing drive building up here will have it forcibly brought to their attention that most of these benefits they're reaping, slowly, are due to the improved conditions fought for by their unionized fellow workers in the plant.

The Gazette doesn't say anything about wages in comparison to those enjoyed by the plant workers.

TOWARDS UNITY

Joint sessions of the AFL and CIO "Peace Committees" resume their joint sessions just as we go to press. These will be the first meetings since agreement was reached on a "No Raiding" pact last June. Since then executive council's of both groups have ratified the pact which goes into operation first of the year.

No announcement has been made as to the subject of the new meetings, but George Meany told his press conference some time ago that the next step was the negotiating of actual organic unity.

Although you would never think it when listening to some of the employer organizations talk, there are numerous examples of co-operation between employees and the boss these days which are paying off for both sides.

In Drummondville, Quebec, employees of a pencil factory wanted a garage to protect their cars from from the rather rough winters in those parts. Management was sympathetic, but there just wasn't anything in the budget to meet that expense.

The local LMPC discussed the problem, and it was found that management had some building material if the employees had time to put it to use. So the boys threw in some of their spare hours, and now they have a fine 13-car garage.

Council secretary Gervin put his finger on a little-known aspect of the work done in Ottawa by officers of Trades and Labor Congress.

He pointed out, concessions which benefit members are gained all year round through continual pressing of ministers and officials.

HOUSING BRIEF

Blueprint For Progress

What about the future of home building in B.C.?

It's a fair enough statement that many hundreds of homes are being built these days, but the catch comes with the price tag. They cost too much.

Houses are being built, but not for the people who need them most.

Union members have a double interest in this problem:

1. They know, despite the highly colored arguments of real estate interests, that there are thousands of working men, even in these days of so-called prosperity, who can't afford a decent standard of housing.

2. Well being of a large section of the labor movement—the building trades—depends to no little extent on income derived from home building.

It would be idle to deny that many persons — government officials, aldermen, city planners, and trade union leaders—have put a great deal of sincere thought on this particular problem.

USE CREDIT UNIONS

But despite some rather minor changes apparently shaping up at the moment through amendments to the National Housing Act, little has actually been done.

People are still without homes.

One group that is really trying to get something done is the Vancouver Housing Association, of which our own Building Trades Council recently became a member.

Here is a condensed summary of the brief that organization presented this fall to Prime Minister St. Laurent:

Private Building — The man of limited means, for whom the NHA was primarily designed, who wishes to build a low-cost home on inexpensive land, has great difficulty securing financing. The Housing Associations suggests this could be accomplished by temporary participation by the government in joint loans under NHA beyond the present limit of 25 percent.

Moderate Rental Housing—"The big gap in our housing program today lies in the field of moderate rental family housing."

There are a good many people who lack the capital or security to build homes for themselves, but who could, nevertheless, afford to pay the economic rent for a new house providing the financing costs are kept sufficiently low.

"If this field could be tapped," states the housing association, "a very large demand for housing would be opened up."

The association argues that municipal governments are not likely to begin projects of this sort, because of complaints from private builders.

But it suggest that a conference be arranged between representatives of the federal government and leaders of the Chambers of Commerce throughout the country in order to encourage such bodies to sponsor the formation of Limited Dividend Housing Corporations—that is corporations with profits fixed at, say, six percent.

Co-Operative Housing — In this field the association recommends establishment of a scheme which has been remarkably successful in providing housing for moderate income groups in Europe.

LITTLE ACCOMPLISHED

It suggests utilization of the present Credit Union organization, perhaps in conjunction with the trade unions, as housing corporations, which might apply for 90 percent loans through NHA and provide the remaining 10 per cent or "down payment" through their usual lending procedures.

This scheme might lead to complications through inexperienced direction, but it has the great merit of getting around the present high down payment stipulations which bar many people from owning homes.

Housing for Old People—There is existing legislation, being made use of to some extent, to provide family housing units for old people.

But the housing association points up the surprising fact that nearly two-thirds of all women over the age of 65 in B.C. are single, widowed, divorced or separated. Self-contained housing is therefore unnecessary in many cases and sometimes impractical.

The association suggests amendment of NHA regulations to permit construction of non-self-contained housing for old people when necessary.

Slum Clearance—The association states that some progress has been made in clearing the way for slum clearance. But one serious obstacle remains: Most slum areas are in the heart of cities, often surrounded by industries and quite unsuitable for development as housing projects.

But government financial help is only available when slums are cleared for the purpose of housing. The association recommends that in such cases federal assistance be extended for slum clearance for industrial or commercial purposes — providing, of course, that provision is made elsewhere for the old-time residents.

RACIAL REPORT

Labor's Joint Committee

Here are excerpts from a report submitted by chairman Gordon Purvis, chairman of Joint Labor Committee to Combat Racial Discrimination:

Officers elected for the coming year were:

Gordon Purvis, chairman; Emmett Holmes, vice-chairman; Anne Marshall, treasurer; Dorothy Greer, secretary.

"It is worthy of note at this time that while the nature of the work undertaken by your committee is such that it is difficult to summarize and point to any measure of progress at a given time, however, it is indeed encouraging to be able to report an ever increasing number of active participants in the various projects we undertake in co-operation with other civic and ethnic groups.

"Preparations are already underway for our fourth annual institute on Race Relations scheduled for the spring. We hope it will be the the biggest and the best yet.

"I think we are all aware that any committee can only be successful to the extent that it is supported by the organizations it represents.

Figures released by the Federal Immigration branch would indicate that many thousands of new Canadians will be entering our country. We are going to be working side by side with these people and it is up to us to show them what our Canadian way of life really means.

(Trades Council executive has under consideration a request from the committee for aid in establishing a Trade Union Information Centre for the benefit of immigrants entering industry.)

"Your joint Labor Committee will endeavor to keep you well informed through your Trade Council, local unions and the press. We hope that we may anticipate your support in our endeavor to make Canada a place that we can be even more proud of, than we are, or should be, at present.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,
Labor Statesman.
Dear Sir:

For many years organized labor has been requesting a National Health Insurance Plan.

The writer agrees that such a service would be beneficial to labor, but I feel that in addition to making formal requests, labor should be prepared to assist the Government in planning it.

Possibly the most important phase in planning would be determination of the scope of benefits and the basis of payment to practitioners.

At present, planning is being done officially by Dominion and Provincial Health officials, and unofficially, by the Canadian Medical Association.

If this work is left solely to officials, I think it is reasonable to assume that their plan will be affected to some degree by political expediency, and the outcome may not be entirely in the public interest.

Turning to the work of the C.M.A., it is interesting to note that this group has accepted the principle of Health Insurance. However, it is my firm belief that this "approval" is based on the fact that the Medical Profession expects to be paid on a fee for service basis—or in other words, in the same manner he now charges private patients.

If a National Health Insurance Plan were to be operated on this basis, it would either bring about financial disaster within an extremely short period, or there would be continuing round of increased premiums to meet increased costs. Secondly, if the C.M.A. is allowed to do the planning, it is very doubtful if Chiropractic, Naturopathic or Osteopathic services would be incorporated.

At the recent convention of the B.C. Medical Association, it was announced that the profession is considering setting up a plan to provide voluntary coverage for individuals. While this idea is a good one, I do not think that the medical profession has shown any great ability in the field of economics and sociology, and any plan formulated by the profession would tend to benefit the profession, rather than the public.

If such a plan comes to fruition, it is quite within the bounds of possibility that the profession could persuade the Dominion Government to accept it on a national scale. In other words, we could be saddled with a plan designed to represent a private rather than a public interest.

Type of service is only one of many items which must be considered. Others are: "Is the plan to be administered on a provincial basic?"; "To what extent should the plan be subsidized by the government?"; "What portion of the premium would labor pay?"; "Would the plan offer complete or partial coverage at the outset?"; What portion would industdy pay?"

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK!

Organized labor throughout Canada should give Health Insurance immediate consideration, and from its National Headquarters ask the Government for representation on any planning commission. Furthermore, it should provide its representatives with definite ideas on the type of Health Plan we want, a plan designed to provide the widest possible coverage at the lowest possible cost.

Yours truly,
J. SWANSBOROUGH,
Secretary-Treasurer,
B.C. Government Employees
Medical Services.

TEAMSTERS' TALK

By Charlie Gower

Employers Bucking Auto Salesmen Union

We are still having considerable trouble with our Auto-Salesmen Division of Local 351. The employers have done everything possible to stymie organization of these men and in the majority of instances the salesmen do not stand up to the strain.

For instance, Colliers' Ltd. salesmen when faced with a vote conducted by the Labor Relations Board, backed away from the union they had joined by voting against certification of the union.

We are in negotiations with Fogg Motors Ltd. and the members on this operation are standing up well under the pressure being applied. Vancouver Motors Ltd. have not yet conceded to bargain in good faith. We knew we were in a tough field when we started but if we can get these salesmen to stand up on their own feet we are confident we can come up with a solution to some of the problems they are confronted with.

The executive board would like to take this opportunity to wish all its members "A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year."

The executive members of Local 151 Taxicab Drivers have had a strenuous month. We have had more petty traffic problems than the previous three months combined.

We fought hard to retain some of the privileges we have enjoyed in the past but the powers that be over-ruled us. However, we will give the new regulations a fair trial and if we can get the members to report inconsistencies to us, we will continue to hammer at them.

We also had a setback this month with the loss of Brothers G. Derrington, Wm. Ferino and John Plotnikof. It was unfortunate that Bro. Plotnikof was not in good standing at the time of his passing and the joint council had to disallow the claim for benefit.

This is the second occasion this year we have run into this situation and in each instance the circumstances left the widow in a very embarrassing position and it was not a nice situation for your officers to be faced with.

May be again remind you that at time of death the member must be paid-up if claim is to be recognized.

Your executive board extend Season's Greetings to all members of Local 151.

UNION LABEL CORNER

By Ed Smith

Don't Let Rush Confuse You---Buy Union

First and foremost, the Union Label Trades Congress wishes the officers and members of all AFL unions a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

And now down to business.

Don't let that last minute Christmas shopping rush confuse you. Despite crowds and the Christmas spirit, you owe it to yourself to buy union—for everyone on your shopping list.

And here is a good deal:

Arrangements have been made under which ladies' nylon stockings, children's stockings and men's socks can be purchased at near wholesale prices—all with the union label. These come from several manufacturers across the line. The workers there are fighting to keep their organization and they need help.

So far as we know, you can't buy these goods in Canada bearing the union label.

For further details, get in touch with you union label council secretary.

Thinking about a new radio or TV set?

Then you'd be wise to keep in mind that all Phillips and Rogers Majestic sets bear the union label.

"MY HUSBAND DISCOVERED THAT MY PURCHASES DIDN'T HAVE A UNION LABEL!"

And if you're thinking of having the old set fixed up, don't trust your repairs to unorganized workers, when you can be sure of skill and satisfaction by having repairs done by the following union firms: Fred Welsh, 733 Beatty Street; Westinghouse Co., 1090 Homer; RCA Victor, Grandview Highway; Marconi Co., 555 Burrard.

* * *

And here is a warning:

It's well known that not all Union suits bear a union label.

Not all dry cleaners who call themselves "Union" something or other have union shops.

There is no guarantee unless they produce the goods, which means a union shopcard, prominently displayed. Be safe and patronize only those that produce the goods.

* * *

Why not resolve during 1954 to stop being a fault finder and be liberal in giving praise to those who serve you on committees while you are engaged in more pleasing entertainment. Our progress is due to the willing "Georges."

A pat on the back once in a while encourages one to give his best to serve you again.

* * *

Here are some more union label resolutions for 1954:

- Be a Union Booster.
- Attend all Union meetings.
- Join Up and Stay In.
- Demand the Union Label.
- Patronize only Union firms..
- Advise your wife and neighbor, and all your friends, where they can purchase union goods.

Do these things and nothing more and you will help to make unions strong.

And why not resolve to affiliate with our council in 1954? We are doing a job for you, so pitch in and help.

* * *

Whatever you do, don't forget to buy that Christmas turkey from a union meat cutter.

CARPENTERS' REPORT

By George Bengough

Over 1000 Kiddies Jam Christmas Party

The big annual "Christmas Tree" sponsored by Local 452 will be held in the Hastings Auditorium on Saturday, December 19, at 10 a.m.

At press time, Business Agent Brother Jack Stevenson, who is in charge of all the arrangements, reports close to 1000 children are now registered to receive presents.

All members were notified to get their children's first names and ages and whether boy or girl, into the Carpenter's office at an early date so that suitable presents can be bought and made ready for the big day. All presents will have an average value of $2 and were purchased from the Norman Wholesale and Manufacturing Co., who are under signed agreement with the Retail Clerks Union.

Along with presents, there'll be a first class concert, Mary Albert's Dancing School, along with a juggler, sleight of hand magician, lots of music, and candy for each boy and girl.

With Vancouver Local 452, trade is good for this time of the year, a larger number of men working than in other years, but still some 300 carpenters not able to secure employment.

There are prospects of a fair amount of work coming up for the immediate future, but the influx of carpenters from other countries plus those from other centres in Canada, is making for a large concentration of carpenters in the Vancouver area. I would suggest anyone reading this and who is a carpenter contemplating coming to Vancouver, realize that while there is a fair amount of construction work in Vancouver, there are several hundred needing work already here.

Local 452 is stepping up it's organization of acoustic applicators, shinglers, gyproc applicators, insulation applicators and sink top specialists, all of which are a part of the carpentry trade and command the established union rate for carpenters.

Carpenters in New Westminster will be holding a big celebration very shortly to make the opening of their fine new building.

This new hall is located on Royal avenue near 8th street within a block of the new City Hall and opposite the new bus depot.

Since the carpenters started on their new building, which is of modern design, the City of New Westminster has widened and paved Royal avenue making it a modern and well lighted street.

Their new hall will seat close to 200 and will have office facilities in the front part of the building.

Brother R. Groves and Brother B. Baker, Business Agents for the Westminster Carpenters, report work is holding up well for their members, that some 50 carpenters had signed the out-of-work book this week.

At the meeting of the District Council, Business Agent Brother James Best of Local 506 Shipwrights reported work was slow in the small boat yards and at their last meeting some 40 members had signed the out-of-work book.

The executive and officers of the local are to be congratulated on the businesslike manner in which their office is being conducted. Good service is being provided the membership and credit in no small part can go to Brother Best, business agent and dispatcher, for his attention to the affairs of the local.

Mill work Locals 1928, Vancouver, and 2534, New Westminster, have made more progress than ever during the past three months.

Brother Gill Gillett, business agent and financial secretary for these two locals, is having good success signing up new members and getting certification with their employers.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners as represented with the two shop locals is now under agreement with 20 firms and finalizing organization in an additional four companies.

To date the shop agreements cover companies doing work on the following divisions of the industry: Sash and door, fixtures and cabinet work, prefabrication of houses, laminating and gluing of trusses and beams, veneer paneling, furniture manufacturing, hardwood floor manufacturing, all making materials handled, installed, or laid by other members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

Lulu Island Market Placarded

Two local unions are placarding a Lulu Island grocery super market.

Placarded by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters Local 212 and Grocery and Food Clerks Local 1518 is Owen's Super Valu store at Westminster Highway and No. 3 Road.

"The majority of the Super Valu stores are organized under our unions and we are informing the public that this one is not," said David Wade, Local 1518 secretary. "We are asking the cooperation of other unions."

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

Auto Workers' Union, Lodge No. 1857, I. A. of M.—Business Agent, Gordon Webb, 2414 Main St. FAirmont 0203.

Bakery and Confectionery Workers Local 468—Secretary, Melvin J. Kemmis, Room 105 Labor Temple; FA. 4529.

Bakery Salesmen, Local 189, I. B. T. C. and M.—Business Agent, E. Holmes, 206 Labor Temple; FA. 8716.

Barbers — International Journeymen of America, No. 120—Secretary, C. E. Herrett, 115 Labor Temple; FA. 8762.

Beverage Dispensers Union, No. 676—Business Manager, Robt. G. Beddome, 440 West Pender St. MA. 2923-4948.

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

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

Building Trades Council — Secretary, Ed Kennedy, 102 Labor Temple. Phone FAirmont 4787.

Carpenters' Union, No. 452—Recording Secretary, H. P. Hamilton; Fin. Sec., P. J. Deplissy; Business Agents: J. Stevenson and R. C. Worthington. Labor Temple, FA. 2396 or EM. 1212.

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

Cement Masons, Local 919, OP & CM—R. R. Baker, 271 Beta, GL. 0067-R, secretary. Dispatcher, MA. 7251.

Chemical Workers Union, International Local No. 485. William Schmidt, 2579 East 4th Ave. HAstings 0160-L.

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. West, North Vancouver; North 2652-L-2.

Distillery Workers' Union, No. 92 — (U.D.L.) — Secretary Ray Lawton, 2078 Waverley. FR. 7484.

Electrical Workers' Union, Local 213—Business Manager, George Gee, 111 Dunsmuir St.; PAcific 7351-2.

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

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 Zailo, 380 East 15th Avenue. FA. 0380.

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. 3186R.

Fire Fighters, Vancouver, Local 18—President, Hector Wright, 4149 Marguerite; CHerry 4146.

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

Government Employees' Association (B.C.)—E. P. O'Connor, general secretary; A. C. Bennett, assistant general secretary. 902 Heimcken, TA. 8441-2.

Hospital Employees' Union, No. 180 — Business Manager, W. M. Black, 116 Labor Temple; FAirmont 9369.

Hotel and Restaurant Employees, Local 28 — Business Agent, (Mrs.) Chris Waddell, 440 West Pender; Phone PAcific 7933.

International Ladies' Garment Workers, Locals 276 and 267—Business Agent, Anne Marshall, 119 West Pender, phone TA. 5514; Home, HA. 5961M.

Ironworkers Shopmen's Local Union 712—Business Agent, V. E. Steers, 333 W. Broadway, FAirmont 7288.

Ironworkers (Shopmen) Union, Local No. 712—Secretary, V. E. Steers, 559 West 19th Avenue. FAirmont 1075-R.

Laundry Workers, No. 292 — Business Agent, J. H. Irving, 208 Labor Temple; FAirmont 9612.

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

Molders' Union, Local 281 — Business Agent, W. M. Green, 119 Labor Temple, FAirmont 9712.

Musicians' Union, Local 145 — Business Manager, Geo. E. Leach, 402 West Pender, Room 808; PAcific 7842.

Office Employees International Union, Local 15—Secretary, Bernice Gibson, Room 301, 529 Beatty, MArine 1928.

Painters, Local 138—Business Manager, Jack Eaves, 103 Labor Temple; phone FA. 9771.

Paint and Varnish Workers, Local 1550—Secretary, Arthur Brammer, 913 Tobruk, North Vancouver, North 2130L.

Patternmakers' Associatin — Secretary, E. Westmoreland, 4295 Dunbar; ALma 2739-R.

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

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

Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 170—Business Manager, Norman Uphill; Ass't. B.M., James Barton. 109 Labor Temple. FA. 9766.

Pulp and Sulphate (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. — John Mathieson, secretary. Drawer 190, Ocean Falls, B.C.

Railway and Steamship Clerks, No. 630—Secretary, R. J. McRae, 1810 - 14th Ave. East.

Retail Grocery and Food Clerks, Local No. 1518 — Secretary, D. A. Wade, 205 Labor Temple; FA. 8242.

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

Seafarers' International Union — Secretary, Norman Cunningham, 565 Hamilton, PA. 7824.

Sheet Metal Workers, Local 280—Business Manager, James Walker, 207 Labor Temple; FA. 7636.

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 West Cordova St.; Phone TA. 3725.

Sign and Pictorial Painters, Local 726—Secretary, J. Middleton, 5881 Dundas St.; phone, GLen. 1326-Y.

Street Railwaymen's Union, Div. 101 — Business Agent, C. Stewart, Street Rly. Building, 125 E. 8th; FAir. 4262.

Street Railwaymen's Union, No. 134—Business Agent, K. M. Armstrong, 59 Alexander, New Westminster. Phone 1342.

Taxi Drivers, Local 151 — Secretary, C. Gower, 204 Labor Temple; FA. 8716.

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

Tile Setters, Local No. 3—Recording Secretary, J. Neville, 3231 School Road, Vancouver 16. DExter 1335-R.

Truck Drivers' Union, Local No. 31 — Business Agents, Reg. Lenfesty and C. Solem. 222 W. Broadway, FA. 8251.

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

United Garment Workers' Union, No. 232—Secretary, Phyllis Fanus; GE. 3354-R.

Union Label Trades Council—Secretary, Ed. Smith, 209 Labor Temple, BA. 2550.

Water District, Sewerage and Drainage Board Employees, Local 393 — Secretary J. M. Morrison, 4573 West First; FA. 6928; home, AL. 1388-L.

Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers Local 207—Business agent, T. Bielek, 670 West Twentieth, FA. 5812-L.

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BTC Proposes New Fund For Placards

Special meeting of the Vancouver and District Building Trades Council on Moday voted for establishment of a fund to finance placarding of "unfair" jobs.

The Council, after long debate, finally voted to recommend to each affliated building trade union that the fund be financed through a five-cent assessment per member per month on all locals' membership.

A previous motion that the BTC authorize all placards and that trades involved pay for the cost of each placarding was defeated.

Bricklayers had suggested the assessment be 50 cents for each member on a yearly basis or whenever required.

Elect Sedawie

Laundry Workers Local 292 this month named Theordore Sedawie as 1954 president.

Other officers are: Ruth Beattie, vice-president, Gertrude Nicholls, sergeant-at-arms; J. H. Irving business agent and secretary treasurer; Catherine Browne, Minerva Rogers and Stella Sinclair, executive members; Agnes Thomson, Ida Basford and James Gavin, trustees; James Gavin, Catherine Browne and J. H. Irving, publicity committee.

LOCAL UNION ACTIVITIES

Fair Wages On Government Jobs Demanded By Building Trades

Enforcement of fair wage scale under provincial government contracts has been urged this month by the Vancouver - New Westminster Building Trades Council.

The Council proposed that the Public Works Fair Wages and Conditions of Employment Act be amended to put "more teeth" in provisions dealing with wage rates.

Under preparation is a brief which will be sent to Labor Minister Lyle Wicks.

BTC President Herb Flesher has declared "the Act is not adequate in its present form and fails to prevent unscrupulous employers from taking advantage of labor."

Specifically, the council wants provision for:

1. Setting of "fair" wages under the Act based on established union agreements in any area.

2. Enforcement of the wage clause on all contractors who are doing work for any department of the provincial government.

The council feels that at present the Act makes only a half-hearted attempt in checking to see that wages paid under government contracts are up to standard.

It wants the Act changed to give the Labor Department full authority to enforce wage provisions.

Carpenters' provincial president George Bengough said that if the Act were patterned on federal legislation the problem would be hurdled.

Under the federal statute, he said the government surveys the area in which the government work is to be done, and sets out the wage scale which must be paid. Then the contract is "policed" to make sure such wages are paid.

Converters Settle Quick Contracts

Vancouver Converters Local 433, of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers settled two local contracts in quick time this month, winning wage boosts and other concessions.

After only four negotiating sessions, Local 433 wound up contracts with Pacific Mills and Canadian Boxes bringing a 3½ percent increase retroactive to Nov. 1; an additional 2-cent boost next April 1, and another two cents next Nov. 1, in a two-year pact.

One additional paid statutory holiday goes to the 300 workers, bringing the total to eight and class "A" mechanics won an additional 3-cent boost.

Male basic rate now jumps to $1.43 and to $1.47 when the 1954 increases are totalled.

Valley Wages Hiked By Retail Clerks

Wage boosts have been won for retail store employees in many interior, Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island points.

Dave Wade of Retail Grocery and Food Clerks 1518 reports that contracts have been signed during the past month with Canada Safeway Ltd. at many centers, and B & K and Super Valu stores in the Fraser Valley.

"The increases varied but all are as good or better than boosts in the last coast contract negotiations," he told The Labor Statesman.

Brother Wade said many of the increases were retroactive for several months.

Stores affected are at Nelson, Trail, Vernon, Penticton, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Mission, Courtenay and Nanaimo.

Award Awaited By Projectionists

At press time, B. C. Projectionists Local 348, were awaiting decision of a conciliation board in its dispute with Famous Players over wages and other conditions of a new agreement.

The Local asked 25-cent increase, time and a half for work on nine statutory holidays, pension plan and an employer contribution to sick relief.

Secretary George Thrift said "we are optimistic about the outcome" following presentation of projectionists case to the board. Robert Hewitt is chairman, R. K. Gervin acting for the union, and J. G. Gould for the movie chain.

Victoria Follows On Stamp Books

The Victoria Building Trades Council is following the lead from Vancouver and will set up a joint Labor-Management Committee to deal with problems in the industry.

The Vancouver committee has been active for some months with representatives of the Building Trades Council and General Contractors' Association and Building and Construction Industries Exchange taking part.

The committee does not deal with negotiations of collective agreements but works for "a common understanding of problems."

One major issue which has been under discussion is the BTC's proposal to introduce the stamp book system for tallying construction workers' holiday pay.

B.C. Projectionists Local 348 have been certified to bargain for projectionists of Roxy and Cambie theatres in Vancouver.

Up in Kamloops, Operating Engineers 115 have won certification for operators, mechanics, oilers and mechanics' helpers employed by Sparling Tank Ltd.

Truck drivers, helpers and swampers of Highway Construction, Vancouver, are now bargained for by Building Material Truck Drivers Local 213.

Fourteenth convention of Pacific Coast District Metal Trades Council is set for Bellingham on Jan. 18. The convention was previously set for Vancouver, but the locale now has been changed.

Secretary Ed Kennedy will represent Vancouver, New Westminster Metal Trades Council.

Work conditions as reported by the November meeting of the local Metal Trades Council showed: Molders—poor; plumbers—shortage of plumbers, other classification fair; shipwrights—poor; sheetmetal—fairly good; painters—fair.

An arbitration award has settled the local dispute over handling of marinite board on ships in favor of Sheet Metal Workers.

Shipwrights also had claimed jurisdiction of the work.

HOSPITAL UNION BUSY

Hospital Employees Federal Union 180 is in conciliation for Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, and interior hospitals.

Business agent Bill Black said a conciliation board started yesterday in Nanaimo covering Nanaimo, Ladysmith, Duncan and Pt. Alberni hospitals, while a second board opens in Kamloops tomorrow covering Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton hospitals.

Chilliwack General and Valleyhaven negotiations are before a conciliation officer while negotiations are underway with Vancouver General, Royal Columbian, Grace, Burnaby General and Queen Alexandra Solarium.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

AFL Unions Return To Shell Refinery Job

AFL Building Trades Unions were back on the job at the $10,000,000 construction job of the Shellburn refinery cracking plant Tuesday with a 60-day truce in the strike of CIO Oil Workers.

About 450 construction workers had been idled during the 12-day strike. The building unions respected the picket line.

* * *

Retail Grocery and Food Clerks 1518 have applied for bargaining certification covering employees in the new B & K markets in Victoria and Duncan.

* * *

Photo Engravers have named S. G. Roberts as president in annual elections this month.

Other officers are A. C. Wilson, vice-president; P. J. Fisher, financial secretary, and J. K. MacKenzie, corresponding secretary.

Meeting of Retail Grocery and Food Clerks Union Local 1518 on January 14 will line up contract demands for 1954 for the major agreements in this area.

Secretary Dave Wade said the contracts with Safeway, Superior, B & K, and Super-Value will be opened in January.

* * *

Council is pressing the federal department of public works to have work pertaining to granite for the new Post Office in Vancouver done in this vicinity rather than in Quebec.

A delegate to the December meeting of council reported that Granite Cutters' Union had spent considerable time and money trying to organize the Quebec granite cutters without success.

PROJECTIONISTS UNION RETURNS ALL FORMER EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

All officers of B.C. Projectionists Local 348 were returned in annual elections held this month.

Douglas Calladine was re-named as president of the movie projectionists, George Thrift as secretary and Les Walker as business agent.

Other officers are W. A. McCartney, vice-president; F. W. Smith, treasurer; Ray Wardrop, recorder; and N. Gowen, jr., member-at-large.

Building Service Workers Rap Long Delay In Conciliation

The Provincial Department of Labor has recently given members of Local 244 a bad time.

With all the ballyhoo coming from the Provincial Minister of Labor about speedy conciliations, here is one for the books.

One September 22, Robert Forgie was appointed conciliation officer to assist negotiating an agreement between this local and the Pied Piper Company. The first meeting with the employer was held on October 14. The next on November 16. The cause of these delays was that Mr. Forgie had been given other commissions by the Department and was out of the city. This delay cost members of Local 244 two month's retroactive pay. So far no comment from the Department.

An agreement finally was signed calling for a $10 monthly increase Aug. 1, 1953, and an additional $5 monthly on June 1, 1954, the agreement to terminate Dec. 1, 1954.

The same situation exists in our negotiations with the golf courses. Nothing but delays for two months due to Mr. Forgie being assigned other duties out of town. If the minister is desirous of speeding up negotiations and conciliation proceedings it is suggested that little more care be given when appointing conciliation officers.

CONGRESSS BRIEFS (Continued)

"the very least our government should do at this session is to propose the establishment of a parliamentary committee to study national health insurance and hear the views of interested persons and organizations."

The TLC officers said they were quite aware that the government is being constantly counselled by other groups to avoid having anything to do with national health insurance, but pointed out that "these groups represent merely vested interest and privilege and have no relation whatsoever with the great majority of Canadians."

The Prime Minister replied that he was fearful of even setting up the proposed committee because "it would be taken by the public as a commitment to do something right away" and "I do not like to make promises that are not going to be carried out."

Mr. St. Laurent added that health insurance must be done by agreement with the provinces. "The federal government will assist but the provinces must administer and I feel that they are not yet ready to do that."

Unemployment Insurance — Congress complimented the government for its decision to continue benefits to persons who became ill while receiving them, but pressed for payment to workers laid off because of illness.

"Loss of income through enforced idleness is just as serious for the worker and his family when this is due to illness as when it is due to a lay-off," the memorandum states.

Mr. St. Laurent is quoted as saying that extension of the act in this way would be "verging on sickness insurance and I doubt whether the federal government could do that constitutionally."

The Prime Minister added however, that the government was "not hostile to the idea and would continue to study the matter."

Old Age Security—Congress requested monthly payment to recipients of Old Age Security be increased to $65 a month and made payable to all persons within a lower age group of 65 for men and 60 for women.

Here again the Prime Minister said that "taxpayers provided this and my government at the moment does not feel that they could be asked to extend the benefits just yet."

Housing—Chief obstacles in the way of house ownership by members were cited as excessive down payments and exorbitant carrying charges on unpaid balance, and Congress urged that down payments be lowered to a maximum of ten percent and repayment periods for the balance stretched out so that monthly payments would constitute a reasonable percentage of the purchaser's monthly income.

The Prime Minister said that when the government housing legislation reaches parliamennt it will be found that serious consideration has been given to the points raised by the Congress.

Criminal Code — Congress carried out a convention decision to request that permission be given attorney-generals of the various provinces to grant permits to responsible groups such as service clubs and labor organizations to conduct draws for amounts "as large as the provincial governments see fit."

Also requested were amendments covering tightening of fire prevention regulations to allow for prosecution of persons who fail to comply with fire regulations.

Congress also asked the government to make certain that in current revision of the Criminal Code "nothing is done which will weaken its ability to deal fairly and firmly with all those who would engage in subversive and other activities designed to undermine the security of the state."

The Prime Minister did not remark on the request for legal lotteries, but said that the government would proceed with "other amendments to the code with which Congress was in agreement."

Prison Chaplain: "Why are you here again, Tom?"

Convict: "Because of my belief, sir."

Chaplain: "Nonsense! What do you mean?"

Convict: "I believed the polceman had gone by, sir."

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NON-PATRONAGE

Tailoring Company Added To Council List

Tip Top Tailors Ltd., of Vancouver and New Westminster, and its subsidiary Dick's Men's Wear Ltd., have been placed on the council's "We Do Not Patronize List."

Request was made by Department, Specialty and Variety Store Employees and covers Tip Top's retail stores in Vancouver and New Westminster and Dick's Men's Wear, 399 West Hastings.

Mel Kemmis of Bakers 458 reported that Home Bakery in North Vancouver is still on the non-patronage list, but is making efforts to sell bread to the homes of union members. Ed Kennedy said another bakery on the list, Montreal Bakery, is renovating an old building and is evidently contemplating expansion sometime in the near future.

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The Geo. H. Hewitt Co. Ltd.
Gordon Young (B.C.) Ltd.
Victoria Tile and Brick Supply Company Ltd.
International Musicians' Booking Association.

The main cause for divorce is two people's inability to reconcile themselves to the fact that they got what they deserved.

Replies From M.P.'s Offer 'Consideration' To Congress Proposals

Five M. P.'s and cabinet ministers of the Vancouver and Lower Fraser Valley area have replied to a letter sent by Trades and Labor Council to all local M.P.'s asking their support of the TLC brief presented to the cabinet this month.

Howard Green, Harold E. Winch, Angus MacInnis and private secretaries to Ralph Campney and James Sinclair wrote back advising that they would "give earnest consideration and do what they can" in support of the proposals.

"HOT DIGGETY! THIS LAST RAISE WILL PAY UP EVERYTHING I OWE EXCEPT MY BACK UNION DUES!"

Employment Hits Seasonal Downtrend

Employment conditions in B.C. will continue on the downtrend until about mid-February as jobs become scarcer during the winter seasonal layoff period, the government National Employment Service reported in its summary of conditions for November.

Regional superintendent William McKinstry said "it can be accepted for the next few months that there will be an increasing surplus of all types of labor which will continue to grow until the usual levelling-off point in mid-February."

He said there was a "fairly rapid increase" in number of unplaced job seekers during the first three weeks of November, and that the total was higher than the same time a year ago.

But the picture isn't black in all industries. He reports that pulp and paper plants are fully active, and that construction activity in lower mainland area has remained at a high level.

The lull in the needle trades is expected to pick up shortly as soon as spring orders are placed.

1954 Target: Boosted Pay For Holidays

Construction trade unions will make a determined bid next year to get a boost in annual holiday pay.

The Vancouver Building Trades Council this month set out the policy as all unions agreed to demand four percent holiday pay—equivalent of two week—in their 1954 agreements.

Holiday pay under most building trades contracts is now two percent of earnings, based on the provincial Holiday Act provisions.

The drive this year is to place construction workmen on the same footing as employees in almost all other industries—a fair and just request—with two weeks annual paid vacation.

The Vancouver-New Westminster council will press the issue province-wide, by urging other building trades councils to adopt the same policy on holiday pay.

Concrete Firm Placed On No-Patronage List

The Vancouver-New Westminster Building Trades Council has placed Superior Construction Co. on the BTC's "We-do-not-patronize list."

Secretary Ed Kennedy said all contractors under agreement will be notified. Superior is a non-union concrete firm.

Grocery Clerks Elect New Slate

New officers elected by Retail Grocery and Food Clerks Local 1518 were installed at the union's meeting last week.

President for the next two years is Ed Roman, employee of Safeway store at Gore and Hastings; vice-president is Tony Butz, second vice-president Gerry MacCarron, and trustee Dick Schlamp.

Recording secretary John Munro went back for his third year by acclamation.

Local 1518 fills its executive posts on a rotating basis with half of the two-year terms elected each year.

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"Wonderful."

"Yep, he eliminated the chasers!"

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