



The Hospital Guardian

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January, 1959

1958 — The Record

At the beginning of the new year, it is customary in business to review the twelve months recently passed, giving a short synopsis of any accomplishments or reversals. Using as an example, then, the reports of the heads of the various financial institutions common to Canada, here is what your union did in 1958:

Organized St. Paul's Hospital Employees

As 1958 drew to a close, Local 180 welcomed to membership the workers of one of the largest institutions on the lower mainland, St. Paul's Hospital. This move is of particular significance to Local 180, as it now becomes one of the major unions, per capita wise, in the province of B.C. While some of the fine details of the new unit remain to be settled, the institution of a unit of Local 180 representing the lay-employees of St. Paul's can now be viewed as an accomplished fact.

Ocean Falls and Haney

The lay-employees of these two hospitals chose Local 180 as their union in 1958. Haney has established a unit, under Chairman Wally Lake, and is a smooth functioning, self-governed group within the body of the provincial union. Negotiations for a new contract with the Ocean Falls Hospital Board of Directors were successfully concluded in October.

New Provincial Headquarters

Operating for some years out of a block of offices in the Labor Temple, the new Provincial Headquarters of Local 180 at 335 West Broadway were officially opened November 22, 1958. A two storey building, the new Headquarter offices adequately fulfills those purposes for which it was specifically designed. It provides room for the increased staffing necessitated by a rapidly expanding membership. The board room is of sufficient dimension to accommodate Provincial Executive meetings, District Council meetings, and doubles as a comfortable and well lighted classroom. The necessary storage space for the innumerable files and records upon which the successful operation of a union greatly depends is amply available.

Finished in mahogany panelling, the new offices are certainly a more pleasant headquarters from which to conduct the affairs of the province-wide union than were the rather limited facilities formerly used.

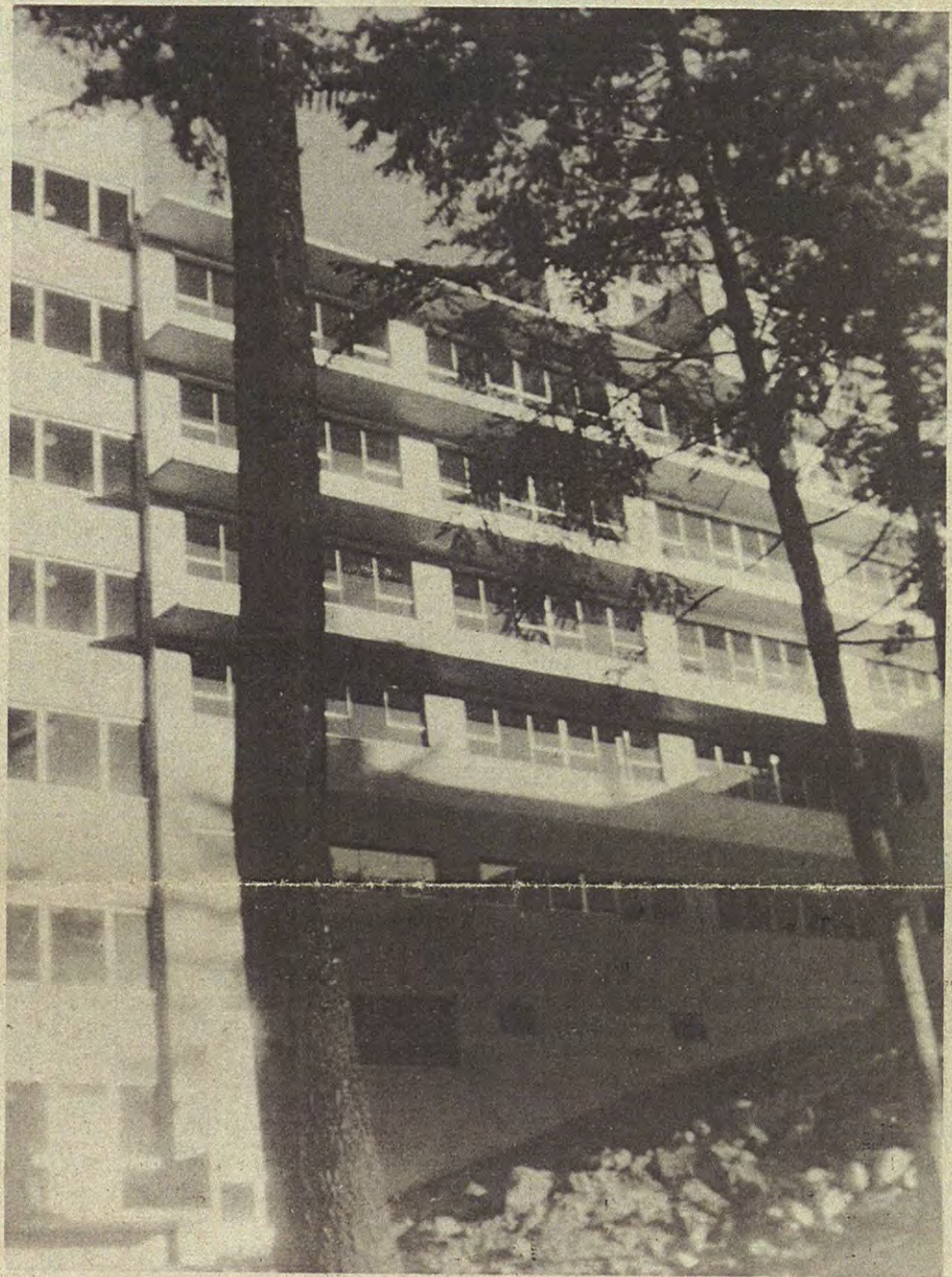
First Bi-ennial Convention

The first Bi-ennial Convention of Local 180 with 65 delegates in attendance met in Penticton, June 5, 6, 7 and 8, inclusive, to determine policy, correlate the activities of the 35 units that comprise the union, elect the Provincial officers and executive, and the delegates to the conventions of the various labour organizations to which Local 180 is affiliated. Provincial President John Fleming was Chairman of the Convention.

Feature speakers were the Hon. Eric Martin, Minister of Health; the Hon. Bob Strachan, Leader of the Opposition; Ed O'Connor, B.C. Government Employees Association; Joe Morris, President I.W.A., and George Home, Secretary-Treasurer B.C. Federation of Labour.

Election of officers resulted in Provincial President John Fleming's unanimous second term in that position. Other officers elected were 1st Vice-President, J. Gallagher; 2nd Vice-President, Tony Burrell; 3rd Vice-President, Jim Spracklin; Financial-Secretary, Alex Paterson; Secretary-Business Manager, W. M. Black. All delegates were unanimous in the opinion that the 1958 convention was a complete success in all aspects.

(Continued on Page 5)



The clearly modern lines of the new Kootenay Lake General Hospital contrast pleasingly with the watchful pines, a tribute to modern architecture and to the community of Nelson.

(See story page 4)

B. C. FEDERATION MEETS CABINET IN VICTORIA

The B.C. Federation of Labour met Premier Bennett and his cabinet in Victoria, Monday, January 5. Below are some excerpts from the extensive brief presented by the Federation on behalf of the 100,000 trade union members in B.C., who belong to that organization.

Let us examine carefully some of their allegations of the drastic effect on our economy of strikes. In examining Canadian strike statistics we find that from 1919 to the present time, strikes accounted for less than one-half per cent (.5%) of man working days lost in Canada.

In 1946, a year of major strikes, .5% of man working days were lost by strikes and yet one of the most prosperous periods of Canadian history started in 1946.

In 1957 the total man days lost in B.C. were 101,660, as against a total for Canada of 1,206,845.

In 1956 there were 39,211 man working days lost by strike action,

but in the same year there were 1,187,157 man days lost by industrial accidents.

For the first 11 months of 1958 there were 227 strikes in Canada affecting approximately 95,000 workers, and in 1957 there were 227 work stoppages affecting 77,480 workers.

In March this year, which was a particularly heavy month for labour disputes (almost twice as many as in March, 1957), here was the picture:

Disputes: 29.

Workers involved: 15,196.

Time lost: 132,325 man working days.

By contrast in the week ending March 22, 1958, 590,000 workers had no jobs; 167,000 had jobs but did not work that week; 75,000 did not work that week because of illness, another 35,000 of them lost part of the week in sick leave.

Total man-days

lost in

March, 1958: 14,917,325

Through un-

employment: 12,785,000 (85.7%)

Through

sickness: 2,000,000 (13.4%)

In strikes: 132,325 (.9%)

In other words, unemployment cost more than 95 times as much time lost as strikes, while sickness cost 15 times as much.

We submit those figures in support and as evidence of an often forgotten fact, that the time lost in strikes is seldom an important factor in affecting national output. Much more time is lost by sickness, accidents and voluntary absenteeism. Informed opinion in western countries is well aware of these facts and it is widely recognized that the introduction of full scale compulsion for the settlement of labour disputes would have effects far more damaging than anything which results from time lost through labour disputes.

Canadian Autonomy

To the repeated charge that Canadian unions are controlled by

(Continued on Page 4)

EDITORIAL

As the New Year dawns, let us pause and reflect on what 1958 has meant to the workers of Canada. What has it meant to you as a member of the organized Labour movement? What has it meant to you as a citizen of Canada and as a member of the human family?

1958 was the year of the Big Attack on Labour by the ORGANIZED EMPLOYER. It was a year of inflation, unemployment and recession. It was a time of tragic disasters on the industrial front, killing and maiming hundreds of workers. In the international field, it was a time of uncertainties.

This was the period when the Canadian worker was persuaded by political promises, such as the elimination of unemployment and lower taxes, to follow John, and to support a party which is diametrically opposed to the interests of the common people.

What will 1959 bring?

The USSR has again out-manoeuvred America in the space struggle, proving once more that the Western World has no monopoly on scientific know-how. Will the showdown in the mad fight for power take place over Berlin this spring?

The North American economy will undoubtedly experience another economic revival. The inflationary forces will be accelerated. We will have a measure of prosperity, but unemployment will continue at a high level. Due to increased automation, more goods and services will be produced than ever before, with less and less manpower and with greater efficiency. Profits will be greater and prices higher. But, relatively speaking, the worker will be no better off. He will be faced with greater uncertainties and will have less security than at any time in history.

The supporters of free enterprise, those who don't recognize the law of change but who believe in an out-moded brand of economy prevalent at the turn of the century — the system of the exploiter and the exploited, dog eat dog — are going to find themselves in a dilemma. How will they reconcile their economic thinking with the modern, technological world of today, a world which has contracted and in which time and space mean nothing? With greater know-how in production, resulting in less use for manpower, how will they maintain maximum consumer purchasing in the face of growing unemployment?

It has been stated that capitalism sows the seeds of its own destruction. Will this destruction be accelerated in 1959? They can no longer rely on war to get them out of their predicament, unless in their blindness, they are desirous of the annihilation of the human race.

Science and history cannot be ignored. Over countless years, the peoples of the earth fought their way through savagery, barbarism, feudalism and into capitalism. If these evolutionary forces still prevail, we shall move into the society of the future which is gradually in the making.

But, old ideas die hard. In Canada, the political pendulum has swung to the right. On its return the Canadian Labour movement, the Canadian working class, must be ready with a vehicle to give direction.

We have as many brains within our ranks as in any other section of our constituted society. If we desire the elimination of war and the threat of war, if we want security for ourselves and for our children, then we must be ready to play our part in bringing into being the new social order of a planned economy.

What will this mean? In a country such as Canada, endowed with all the natural resources and with a heritage, unemployment will be unheard of. Every worker who is able will have a job. There will be security. The old and the infirm will be looked after. We are our brother's keeper.

Let us re-dedicate ourselves. Let us look to the future with the resolve that we shall do our part to make this a better country, a better place in which to live.

HELP MAKE YOUR UNION STRONG AND EFFECTIVE!

- ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS
- TAKE PART IN UNION ACTIVITIES
- SIGN UP THAT NON-MEMBER
- READ YOUR UNION PAPER
- REGISTER AND VOTE
- SUPPORT COPE
- BUY UNION LABEL GOODS
- WEAR YOUR UNION BUTTON



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THE READERS WRITE

Jubilee Association Holds Meeting

5857 Commercial Dr., Vancouver, B.C.

THE EDITOR,

Dear Sir:

The Children's Jubilee Summer Camp Association held their annual meeting and convention on Nov. 23rd, 1958 at the Stry Hall at 8th Ave.

A few changes were made in the wording of the by-laws and constitution.

A point of interest to many is in the understanding that the camp is not limited to underprivileged children but is open to all children from all walks of life. No child shall be refused.

The camp is not sponsored by the Red Feather, therefore all donations are gratefully accepted.

Officers elected at the annual meeting are as follows: Pres. Wm. Pierce; Vice-Pres., Barney Jensen; Corresponding Sec., Mrs. H. Berger; Treasurer, Alex Duff; Recording Sec., Mrs. R. Lenfesty; Auditors, James Mason and Carl Reich; Publicity Chairman, Mrs. H. Chandler; Building Manager, Lorne Weber; Finance Chairman, Robert Berger; Chairman Ladies Auxiliary, Mrs. G. Brimacombe; Executive at large, A. Earl Hallock, Charles Hunter, Allen J. Barnes, J. Harlow, Alfred Brennan, Les Millar.

Sincerely,

Publicity Chairman
Mrs. H. Chandler.

Greetings From Langley

22384 - 64th Avenue
R.R. 7
Langley, B.C.

December 12th, the big night in the life of the children of the Langley Unit members, has come and gone but will not soon be forgotten.

About 8 o'clock the proud parents and happy children started to congregate in the Melner Hall where games, skits and music took over.

The arrival of Santa in the person of Brother Daly climaxed a night of fun when he gave out presents to about forty happy children.

After eats, pop, etc., forty tired children and equally tired parents trundled off to the Land of Nod.

May I on behalf of the Langley Unit thank Brother Daly who has been our Santa for the last three years.

At this time, on behalf of the Langley Unit and myself, I would like to extend greetings to all our Units.

Let us make it Xmas one day of the month for our own Local Executive by attending all meetings and taking an active interest in what goes on in our Units. Again to all, a Happy New Year.

Your fraternally,
H. L. Moore,
Secretary.

Best Wishes For New Year

The Hospital Guardian:

As a member of the Hospital Employees' Union, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Provincial Executive and members of Local 180 on a successful year just concluded.

The success of the Union in the past year is due in part to the increasing efforts of the local executives and members who have worked to better conditions in all fields, that their fellow workers could enjoy some of the better things of life.

At times though, we sometimes wonder if it is worth the effort, when the monthly general meeting is attended by 10, 15 or 20% of the membership, and yet on the job, or during lunch period, the members have a solution to all the problems. These are the people who should attend meetings but never do. If they do happen to show up, say twice a year or so, they just sit and say nothing. When the meeting is over, Wow!, do they open up.

I sincerely hope that the attendance at your local meetings will be greatly improved in the coming year. In view of the attacks on labour from all sides, your strong support is needed as never before. Remember, in union there is strength.

To all new units and members, I extend a most hearty welcome to one of the most progressive unions in the Province, and wish you all the best of everything during the year ahead.

Yours fraternally,
P. Sevin

From H.E.U. Trustees

The Hospital Guardian:

On behalf of the Trustees of H.E.U., Local 180, may I take this opportunity to extend to all unit members, both old and new, a most happy and prosperous 1959 and to express to you our New Year's resolution to help carry out, to the best of our ability, the business of your Union.

Fraternally yours,
P. Sevin

Langley Letter

Brothers and Sisters:

Another year is upon us. What have you done towards helping your fellow man and your Union?

It is not enough to pay dues or even take part in the activities of your own local. We must study each according to his or her ability so as to advance the welfare of mankind and fit ourselves for more and more responsibility.

On November 20th, I was one of many privileged to hear an address by Rev. Gowling in the Teamsters Hall. This address was sponsored by your B.C. Federation and to me was one of the most inspiring that I have ever had the pleasure of listening to.

Rev. Gowling, or (Bill) as he prefers to be called, is a Minister, member of the Transport Union and Head of Gowling College in England where some 600 Ministers are taught and about 200 Union members each year.

He believes, like many of us do, that Canada will be the leading world power within the next 25 years and that Labour and Church must combine to form a political power similar to the Labour Party in England. He lays stress on the fact, that unless we do unite, and the church and working class of the free world forget our petty grievances and help to educate the unemployed, that we could easily miss the boat and be governed by a Fascist state of a few wealthy persons.

He pointed out the benefits of the so called welfare state as it applies to Britain and thinks we should follow suit.

The challenge is up to you who are younger, as automation is creeping up on us faster than we think. So I urge you youngsters to forgo a few of the pleasures for a little serious thinking on the behalf of your fellow toiler.

You do not enjoy the benefits of better wages, etc. because your employer has become benevolent in his growing years but only because men and women of former years fought and even died for the privileges you and I take for granted.

Some of the great American labour leaders have had colorful and dedicated careers on your behalf and I would urge you to read a book called "American Labour Leaders" by Charles A. Madison, in which he gives a brief synopsis of the following men: Sylvius, Stephens, Powderly, Gompers, Green, Hatcheson, Mitchell, Lewis, Borodess, Dubinsky, Whitney, Haywood, Murray, Hillman, Reuther and Bridges. This is of a necessity but a brief outline of their lives but may serve to arouse your interest in the trade union movement.

A 5c stamp to your Labour Library at Ottawa will bring you this book and many more excellent books on almost any subject you desire to pursue and they send them free with an O.H.M.S. sticker to return them.

A monthly book published by the Department of Labour called the Labour Gazette and costing only \$2.00 yearly lists new books as they become available and much more to interest labour.

Stop — think and do something about it. Its up to you alone.

Yours fraternally,
H. L. Moore,
Secretary Langley Unit.

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All submissions and correspondence to be sent to:
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335 West Broadway,
Vancouver 10, B.C.

"In humble dedication to all of those who toil to live."

Nelson Proud Of New Hospital

Local 180 Donates Ward

In the shining new Kootenay Lake General Hospital, one ward bears the inscription, "Hospital Employees' Union, Local 180". H. R. Cole, chairman of the Nelson Unit, wishes to give credit to the members of his unit who made this possible. A total of \$514 was subscribed by the union members, raised by a cash donation of \$3.00 per member, and the proceeds of a few whist drives and two turkey raffles.

\$565 To Springhill Fund

The Provincial Executive wishes to thank all the units that subscribed so generously to the Springhill Disaster Fund. Financial Treasurer Paterson recently mailed a cheque totalling \$565.00 to the Springhill local of the Miners' Union, earmarked "Disaster Fund."

The following units contributed to reach this total:

Fernie, \$25.00; Duncan, \$25.00; Prince George, \$25.00; Nanaimo, \$25.00; Oliver, \$10.00; White Rock, \$25.00; V. G. H., \$100.00; Ladysmith, \$25.00; Local 180, Prov. Exec., \$100.00; Creston, \$35.00; Queen Alexandra, \$15.00; Quesnel, \$20.00; Cranbrook, \$25.00; Royal Columbian, \$25.00; Kelowna, \$10.00; North Vancouver, \$25.00; Abbotsford, \$25.00; Nelson, \$25.00.

Haggis Hygiene

A British medical publication cautions that the sandwich and the meat pie are still a hygienic gamble. Which, for the moment, takes the pressure off the famous English sausage and leads us to wonder how our local Highland brethren are making out with that Lowlander in official Ottawa who takes a dim view of the contents of imported haggis.

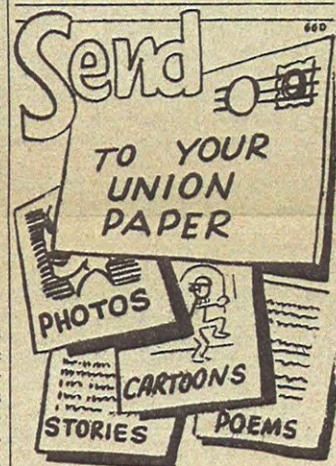
—Montreal Star

And did you hear about the enterprising young fellow, newly married, who wrote on his income tax form under "number of dependent children": WATCH THIS SPACE.

The new Kootenay Lake General Hospital was officially opened to the public, December 13, 1958. A fully modern hospital with 134 bed capacity (and 22 Bassinets), the hospital opened with 93 beds available for immediate occupancy. The other 41 beds are on the fourth floor. The hospital is designed to expand to 174 bed unit. The basement of the new hospital contains the laundry, the kitchen, staff cafeteria, and pharmacy. The lobby, board room, medical records, X-ray, surgeries, Emergency department, laboratories and physiotherapy are on the first floor. The second floor is given over to maternity and women's surgical wards. The men's wards, women's medical wards and pediatrics are on the third floor.

Chairman of the Board of Directors, E. M. Stiles, in his opening remarks, paid tribute to the enthusiastic citizens of Nelson City and district, who, with provincial and federal aid, made the beautiful new hospital a reality. The Hon. E. C. Martin, Minister of Health and Welfare, gave the opening address. Canon W. J. Silverwood dedicated the new building, and gave it his blessing.

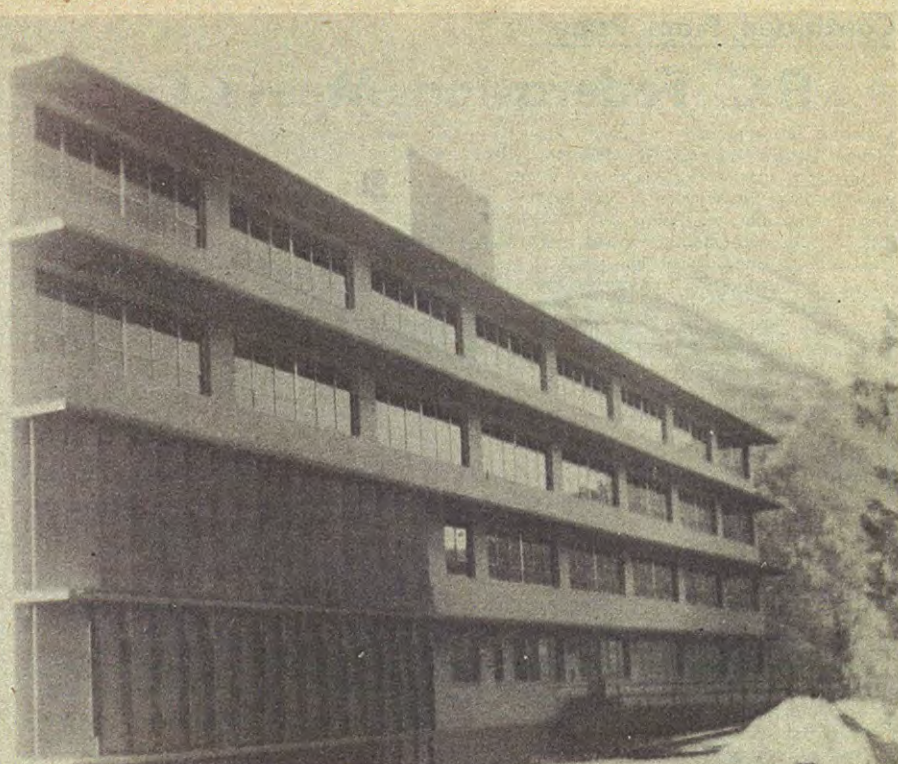
Construction of a suitable staff residence has already begun, and is expected to be completed in April.



A young woman engaged in teaching Indians grammar on a western reservation was asked if her work was meeting with success.

"It's beginning to," she replied. "Yesterday two of my pupils, Mr. and Mrs. Bear Don't Walk, went to the Indian agent and applied for the right to change their names to Mr. and Mrs. Bear Doesn't Walk."

—Christian Science Monitor



The New Kootenay Lake General Hospital

Nelson-Trail Labour Council Active

Season's Greetings from the Nelson-Trail & District Labour Council.

In the case of this Council, we can say that we have acted on problems of violence at Federal and Provincial levels, formed a committee on such and along with the RCMP have striven to bring about some form of conclusion to that matter. We have helped in advising on strikes in the area, assisted on bettering conditions on the Federal building in Nelson, put on a very good showing at the Nelson Fall Fair with accent on Union Label, acted on the Unemployment Insurance Committee, also upon many matters both Federal and Provincial.

We have travelled a long way in a short time!

The members of the Council are to be congratulated upon the patience and hard work shown during 1958. We must thank the officers of the Canadian Labour Congress, and the B.C. Federation of Labour, also Labour Councils, for the kind co-operation shown to us, not forgetting the executive and officers of our own Council whose hard and diligent work has been responsible for attaining such a high standard.

With 1958 a memory, we must look forward to a new year, a year of hard work and clear thinking. Let us put our best foot forward and work together as we have in the last year and come out on top again.

At this time we wish all affiliates to our Council, the C.L.C., the B.C. Federation of Labour, and all Labour Councils, a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Ernest Boulet,
President.
H. L. Stacey,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Labour Man V.G.H. Trustee

Alderman E. A. Jamieson, Secretary of the Vancouver Labour Council, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Vancouver General Hospital, according to the list of Committees for 1959.

BUGS BEAT BULLS

A bullfight, scheduled for Ontario, has been cancelled because of ticks. Some things won't work well until you get the bugs out of them.

—Windsor Daily Star

C.O.L. Again Increasing

Between October and November, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics Consumer Price Index register rose 0.3 points or 0.2%, bringing it to a new peak of 126.3. This is the fourth successive month that the Consumer Price Index has risen. What items are responsible for this increase? Unfortunately for the worker in the low income brackets, or the pensioner on his dole, or the unemployed attempting to stretch an inadequate cheque from month to month, food, clothing and shelter are largely the sole contributory factors to the steadily climbing index.

In Vancouver, in recent months, the price of bread increased by two cents per loaf, that of milk, by one cent per quart. In the face of a bumper yield of salmon, the price of the canned product places it close to an expensive delicacy, rather than a staple food. Stewing beef retails for nearly ninety cents a pound, as does hamburger, while Okanagan apples are the subject of public criticism engendered by a Commission report that charges of prohibitive retail "markups."

Of equal concern to the average wage earner, bus tickets, telephone charges and electrical costs have also increased in the past six months.

W. M. BLACK

MARTIN SAYS "NO U.I. FOR HOSPITAL WORKERS"

We have read a great deal in the columns of the daily press about irresponsible Unions, their outrageous demands and their strikes during 1958.

We hear very little about the many trade unions who work diligently at negotiating and conciliating, the Unions who make every effort to arrive at just and fair agreements.

The Hospital Employees' Union, Local 180, is in this latter category.

Ours is an essential public service and during the last eighteen months we have negotiated 34 contracts without resorting to conciliation proceedings. Surely, this record speaks for itself.

In all fairness, however, we must congratulate those administrations who were prepared to meet us at the bargaining table and who made an honest and sincere effort to reach negotiated settlements. They were in the majority.

There is still a minority — and it is not always the small hospital — who will hide behind Government direction, deficit finance, "hold the line", or any other excuse to circumvent the negotiating of a fair contract.

These Boards close their eyes to the increase in commodity prices, transportation costs, telephone rates, freight rates, etc. All these features are reflected in the worker's budget. They also ignore the productivity factor. They would even deny to the workers any right to an improved standard of living.

Many of the individual board members are industrial workers in their own private employment. Yet they would impose on hospital workers conditions which they themselves would not accept and about which they would not hesitate to use their economic strength.

Other problems have also plagued us, particularly those pre-

sented by the Government.

This is a Government that claims to get things done. During the recent Trail By-election they promised to build all the roads between Kingdom Come and back again. Yet, this same Government would deliberately starve essential services. It deliberately squeezes and curtails the operation of our acute general hospitals.

The Honorable Minister of Health and Welfare, who continually denies interfering in collective bargaining, who denies putting pressure on hospitals, directed a communication to the Chairmen of Hospital Boards on Christmas Eve. This letter contained a bright, cheery message for hospital workers. It was a carefully thought out and written letter and we would like to quote the last paragraph:

"Some hospitals during 1958 agreed to provide additional fringe benefits such as medical insurance

and unemployment insurance, although they were aware that funds were not available to cover the cost. In a number of instances these added expenditures have contributed substantially to hospital deficits. I can give absolutely no guarantee that additional funds will be provided for fringe benefits in 1959."

He does not tell Boards that they cannot negotiate fringe benefits, but he certainly attempts to intimidate them.

Is Mr. Martin suggesting that fringe benefits are good for him (and he does enjoy them) and for all members of the Government, that they are good for all the other municipal and public employees in the province, but not for us?

Is this a sample of the Minister's fair and impartial dealings? Is this the way to industrial peace, to the establishment of good labour relations, to the proper con-

duct of labour negotiations?

We are tired of all the double talk. The hospital workers have no intention of subsidizing the operation of our hospitals, now or in the future. We have every intention of developing a standard of living commensurate with our productive capacities and our responsibilities.

We cannot ignore the inflationary trends. We are part of the consuming public. Just as industry very quickly looks after the investors, so shall we look after our people.

We hope to process negotiations during 1959 in the same harmonious and efficient manner that we did in 1958. We shall make every effort to obtain for our membership the highest standard of living possible. The hospital service is just as socially necessary as any other service provided for the taxpayers of this province.

Continued From Page 1

B.C. Federation Meets Cabinet

American interests to the detriment of Canada, I would first like to point out that in Canada there are over 3,750 subsidiaries of American companies, engaging over 50% of the Canadian workers. The Gordon Commission has reported on the question of American influence in Canadian unions as follows: "In general it is the Canadian local (union) not international headquarters which determines the scope and content of union requests with respect to wages, hours, fringe benefits and other objectives sought through collective bargaining."

"Headquarters officials sometimes participate directly in Canadian negotiations, but to the extent that they do, this is normally at the invitation of the Canadian local in an advisory and technical capacity."

"Not a single case has been found where a Canadian local has gone on strike under orders from international headquarters."

"Most significant, for purposes of this study, is the judgment that Canadian autonomy is particularly strong in the key areas of collective bargaining including the use of the strike weapon."

"The available evidence also shows that the exercise of Canadian autonomy is greatest in the larger union organizations operating in Canada, and that such autonomy has expanded with the growth and increasing maturity of Canadian unionism."

The Honorable Michael Starr, when speaking in Toronto on September 1st, stated: "Organized labour in Canada numbers over 1,300,000 Canadians. And labour in this country has borne itself in an attitude of responsibility and dedication to the orderly advancement of labour's aims. Through enlightened leadership, through its research facilities, through its close contact with the economic facts of life, labour is in a position to play a formidable role in maintaining peace and prosperity."

"There is now looming upon the labour-management horizon, the vast uncertainty of automation and its effects. Here we must reconcile the twin necessities of production efficiency and the human factor. Labour is not a commodity. It is men and women and their families."

"In the last analysis this means the development of our manufacturing industries for it is in this workers' sphere that the wages are the highest and the aim of all expansion is, of course, the rising of the general standard of living. It is my own view that there are no good grounds for anybody being afraid of high wages as long as all concerned recognize the fact that the only way we can have high wages is by having high productivity."

Unemployment

Economists are predicting that although we can expect an upturn to the 1958 recession, they are extremely cautious in suggesting much change to the ugly unemployment picture.

From Canadian Business Magazine for November, 1958, we quote a report on United States Business: "Business Rebounds Rapidly: Business recovery is continuing at a fast pace and on a broad front. The Gross National Product is now confidently expected to rise to an all-time high of close to \$450 billion in the current quarter. This would represent a 6% increase from the first quarter rate, an outstanding performance considering that most of it represents an increase in physical terms. The FRB index of industrial activity at 137 is now only slightly below its long-term trend."

"While this might appear to be a satisfactory situation, it is less so from the standpoint of quickly

absorbing the unemployed. The fact is that the current increase in production is being achieved with only a small addition to the labour force — there has been a significant increase in productivity, possibly as much as 6% for the whole year."

From the November 1, 1958 Monthly Bulletin of Business Activity issued by the B.C. Bureau of Economics and Statistics: "The number of workers having jobs on September 20, 1958 also dropped by 11,000 from the 533,000 estimated on August 23. In comparison with the September, 1957 figure, there were about 9,000 less people with jobs in British Columbia this year than last, when 531,000 workers were employed. The number of unemployed and seeking jobs in September was 31,000, unchanged from one month ago, and more than twice the

Strictly NON-Union



"A raise, Jones? Gad! I wish I had your sense of humor."

September, 1957 number of 15,000 unemployed. It seems that the unemployment figure has reached its lowest point for this year now and the number of people looking for jobs may be expected to increase from now on through the end of winter."

To this gloomy picture must be added the other miserable aspects. Thousands of persons who will be unemployed this year will not be eligible for Unemployment Insurance Benefits and will suffer the further degrading prospects of having to beg for hand-outs and rely upon charity to sustain body and soul.

We categorically state that these conditions should not exist for any human being and there is no reason politically, economically or socially why they should be tolerated in a country so rich as Canada, and in particular in British Columbia, which is one of the richest endowed spots in the world.

B.C.-Fed. Proposals and Suggestions for Easing Unemployment

1. We would urge in the strongest manner possible that this Government immediately declare that an emergency exists in the field of unemployment and they call upon the Federal Government to join with them in that declaration.
2. We would urge this Government to declare immediately that they will make available a sum of at least \$5,000,000 for unemployment assistance; and this sum be used under the terms of the Unemployment Assistance Act, which would allow for additional grants to be provided for from the Federal Government General Revenue.
3. We would urge this Government to convene immediately a Province-wide Conference to plan an all-out program to bring immediate relief to those suffering from unemployment, and to bring about solutions to present unemployment. The Conference to be composed of delegate representatives from the:

Federal Government Agencies

British Columbia Government
City and Municipalities
Labour Organizations
Farm Organizations
Church Organizations
Welfare Organizations
Business Organizations

and other organizations who have a contribution to make in solving the unemployment problems and to relieve the distress.

At such a Conference agreement should be reached:

- (a) As to the respective responsibilities of the Municipal Governments and the Provincial Government.
- (b) A three-way agreement between the Federal, Provincial, Municipal on a stepped-up Housing Program, including low-cost housing and low-rental. Also a slum clearance program. An improved water and improved sewerage disposal projects.
- (c) An intensive building program for education buildings, hospital buildings, and other needed public buildings.
- (d) More extensive road and bridge building program.
- (e) More dyke building and flood control of farm areas, including reclamation of farm lands.
- (f) An improved hydro development program under the auspices of the B.C. Power Commission.
- (g) The need for a program to encourage the establishment of secondary industries in this Province, as well as the planning for a steel mill.
- (h) A program to stop dumping and the importation of foreign subsidized goods and products at the expense of local jobs.
- (i) The reduction of the work week, elimination of unnecessary overtime and moonlighting.
- (j) The need for overall improvement to the Unemployment Insurance Act to provide increased benefits and increased coverage.
- (k) Proper care and assistance to the destitute unemployed.
- (l) A debt moratorium to protect the goods and chattels of the unemployed.

In our studied opinion, such a Conference would be successful with the proper planning. In this regard a further suggestion would be to appoint a Committee from the major participating groups to plan the Conference and the Agenda.

B.C. Government Employees — Unemployment Insurance

While dealing with the subject of unemployment and Unemployment Insurance, we endorse the request of the B.C. Government Employees Association for the Government of British Columbia to recognize their employees as being entitled to the protection of other employees and that the Government take the steps necessary to bring the employees under the Unemployment Insurance Act coverage.

Hospital Insurance

We believe the time has come for the enactment of much needed improvement to the Hospital Insurance Act, to provide much broader coverage, including full chronic care and the stepping-up of a hospital building program to provide the service the Act calls for.

We know the monies for such improvements have been provided. According to B.C. Government records:

Payments made to hospitals for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1956 \$28,753,182.96
Payments made to hospitals for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1957 \$29,760,459.29

George Home Receives CLC Appointment

George Home, Secretary of the B.C. Federation of Labour, has been appointed National Director of Political Education for the C.L.C., with headquarters in Ottawa. Members of Local 180 will view his departure with mixed feelings, elation on the one hand, because a friend is receiving an important position of national significance, and a sense of loss, on the other, because George Home has so very capably assisted the Union in the past in wage negotiation disputes.

A Canadian by way of Glasgow, George Home became a member of the United Packinghouse Workers in 1926, the year he came to Canada. In 1942, he joined the Marine Workers Union in Vancouver and became vice-president of that organization the following year. He next became a member of the United Steelworkers, and was elected President of his local.

In 1948, he was elected president of the Vancouver Labour Council and later that same year became Secretary-Treasurer of the British Columbia Federation of Labour of the Canadian Congress of Labour. In 1956, at the now historic merger convention, George Home became the first Secretary-Treasurer of the B.C. Federation of Labour, a provincial body chartered by the newly formed Canadian Labour Congress representing the former Trades and Labour Congress and the Canadian Congress of Labour groups in the province of B.C. He was re-elected to this position for his third consecutive term at the 1958 Convention of the B.C. Federation of Labour. Since 1945, he has been a leader in the B.C. labour political action program.

The B.C. Hospital Employees' Union, Local 180, joins with the other thousands of B.C. trade unionists who form the B.C. Federation of Labour in congratulating George Home upon his appointment, and in wishing him well in his new capacity as National Director of Political Education for the Canadian Labour Congress.

The Officers and Executive of the B.C. Federation of Labour, in a brief ceremony prior to his departure for Ottawa, presented George with a combination desk set, in commemoration of his excellent services to that organization as its first Secretary-Treasurer.

Sum granted to the Hospital Insurance Service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1958 \$31,932,182.00

Estimated Revenue for year ending March 31, 1958:
Social Service Tax \$86,250,000
2/5 of \$86,250,000 \$34,500,000

Estimated Revenue for year ending March 31, 1959:
Social Service Tax \$78,000,000
2/5 of \$78,000,000 \$31,200,000

When the 3% Social Service Tax was increased to 5% it was explained and accepted that the additional 2% was a replacement of the premium payment to the Hospital Insurance Service. Not only has the Government raised millions of dollars more by the use of the increased sales tax than was possible by the premium, they have also escaped paying any part of the former General Revenue into the Hospital Service.

With the additional \$17,000,000 a year now being provided by the Federal Government, the needed improvements can now be instituted with the monies being provided for this purpose.

One of the first necessary improvements is for this Government to declare it will accept all chronic cases requiring hospital



O'Neal B.C. Fed. Secretary

Pat O'Neal, President of Local 708, I.B.P.S. & P.M.W. of Prince Rupert, has assumed the duties of Secretary-Treasurer of the B.C. Federation of Labour. O'Neal is Secretary of the Prince Rupert Labour Council, and has been an Executive Vice-President of the B.C. Federation of Labour for three years.

Jim Bury, I.C.F.T.U., currently in Mexico, has been named assistant to O'Neal. A former Vancouver trade unionist and M.L.A. for Vancouver Centre, Bury is returning to the city that is his home to take up the new position.

care will be covered under the Act, and secondly, for them, in cooperation with municipalities, to blue-print and start building the required chronic hospitals.

There are a number of other required improvements which we have requested in previous Briefs. We would again repeat the request we forwarded to you this year for this Government to order a Public Inquiry into all aspects of the Hospital Insurance Program, and we are sure that out of such an Inquiry a much-improved Hospital Service Plan would evolve.

Mental Health

As everyone is becoming aware, greater and greater numbers of persons are requiring the services of professionally trained people in the field of mental health. At present there is a shortage of both trained personnel and facilities to treat the mentally sick.

Therefore we state that there should be an immediate program commenced to correct this situation, and as a first step we support the B.C. Government Employees Association position that the working conditions and salaries of the Government Mental Health Service personnel be immediately improved and brought into line with other professional services.

Municipal Act

We would also request this Government to make the necessary financial provisions to immediately bring all hospital workers within the orbit of the Municipal Superannuation Act. In this regard we would commend this Government for the introduction of amendments last session which provided for better coverage and benefits to those covered by the Act.

Continued From Page 1

1958—THE RECORD

New Paper

July, 1958 saw the first issue of the new-look "Hospital Guardian" ready for distribution to the membership of Local 180. Starting with the initial copy, comment has been entirely favorable, not only from Local 180 members, but from other trade unionists and administrative authorities who have read the paper and enjoyed it.

Negotiations Successful

While B.C. writhed in the throes of one of the most violent years recorded in the history of labour-management relations in the province since the war, Local 180 was successfully setting a pattern of sane and productive negotiations. Nowhere was settlement arrived at under a minimum 5%, while the fringe items, i.e., four weeks holiday after 10 years, sick leave, etc., became the generally accepted programme.

B.C. Federation of Labour Convention

W. M. Black, President of the B.C. Federation of Labour, Secretary-Business Manager of Local 180, introduced the third convention to the delegates assembled from all points of B.C. Present as representatives of Local 180 were Alex Paterson, Joe Gallagher, L. Woodthorpe, H. Duff, Provincial President, John Fleming, and John Darby.

N.U.P.E. Convention — Windsor, Ont.

Local 180 delegates to the annual convention of the National Union of Public Employees were W. M. Black, Alex Paterson, Tony Burrell, Joe Gallagher, John Fleming, W. D. Black and Hector Garden.

New District Council Formed

The Fraser Valley District Council, representing the employees of hospitals situated in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Haney, White Rock and Langley.

These are but the highlights of the activities of Local 180. While conventions have been called and papers printed, the ordinary day to day business of the union has been carried on. Grievances have been processed. Innumerable W.C.B. cases have been conducted. Shop Stewards training classes were inaugurated. Delegates were at each Vancouver Labour Council meeting. Brother H. R. Cole was elected Secretary of the Nelson-Trail District Labour Council, while Sister McGinnes became Secretary of the Kamloops Labour Council.

What are the objectives for 1959? Stated very simply, to continue to be an organization dedicated to the welfare and the service of the individual member, whatever his needs or his distress might be.

Alsbury Sworn In As Vancouver Mayor



While thousands of unemployed queued up for a sandwich and a kind word at religious institutions dedicated to the preservation of a man's physical welfare, Mayor Tom Alsbury was sworn in as the new head of Vancouver city government. Mayor Alsbury's election was a significant victory for the labour forces of the city, who had openly supported him in his campaign. Now that he has assumed the robes of office, the working peoples who had voted for him waited for the promised results.

His initial approach has been refreshingly vigorous. Scant hours after officially accepting office, the Mayor had convened a special meeting to deal with the unemployment crisis. While no immediate solution was forthcoming, no one had expected a miraculous panacea. The fact that some concrete steps were being taken was, in itself, comforting. If nothing else was accomplished, the Mayor had made it evident that he was aware of the gravity of the situation, and that he was prepared to take the steps necessary to alleviate a part of the problem. The citizens of Vancouver wish him every success in his endeavours.



H. R. Cole, Chairman of the Nelson Union, poses before the new Provincial Headquarters of Local 180 at 335 West Broadway.

Jubilee Association Meets

Hospital Employee's Union, Local 180 was represented at the above Convention by your delegates, Bros. J. Basaraba and H. Duff. The Convention was held in Stry Hall, 125 East 8th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. on Sunday, Nov. 23, 1958 at 1:30 p.m., Bro. W. Pierce in the Chair.

The Chairman welcomed the delegates and then proposed two minutes silence in memory of Bro. Ed. Smith, who had worked so long and enthusiastically for the Union Label movement and who incidentally, was responsible for the inauguration in Canada of Union Buying Week. A further two minutes silence was observed in memory of Dr. Murphy, one of the founders of this Association.

The Building Manager, Bro. Webber, made a very interesting report. He said that the B.C. Government had discovered our wharf at Orlomah Beach and we now pay a \$25 tax annually. He made grateful reference to the small gillnetter which the boys at Burrard Drydock had practically renewed. He said the boat had made about 42 trips carrying an average of four to six people, which would have cost \$8 per trip by water taxi and also that it had saved the camp a lot of money that would have been paid out for freight. The lighting plant is about eight years old and had cost \$94 in repairs in the last year. He suggested that it would have to be replaced in the near future.

The Corresponding Secretary had sent out 220 calls for this meeting, but the Credentials Com-

mittee reported only 69 delegates representing 43 Unions and two Trade Councils. There were three visitors and seven members of the Ladies' Auxiliary. The Ladies' Auxiliary, who are responsible for the Camp registrations, reported that in 1958 there were only 167 as against 387 in 1957. It was believed that there were two reasons for this, first the separation of the sexes, i.e. girls in one 10 day period, then boys; also the poor working conditions during the summer, unemployment, fire conditions and strikes.

The finances of the Association are in much better condition this year, even with registration down 50%. The year ended with a surplus of \$346. The Finance Chairman mentioned how donations were down in '57 but back to normal in '58. He quoted the following figures: in '54, \$2,900; in '55, \$2,900; in '56, \$4,000; in '57, \$2,700; in '58, \$4,247. It was generally felt that the present Executive had done a remarkably good job throughout the year and this was reflected in the election when they were all returned except for a few minor changes. Mrs. Chandler becomes the Publicity Chairman and one or two of the Executives at Large were changed.

Just prior to the Election refreshments were served by the Ladies' Auxiliary and much appreciated. Immediately after this several changes were made in the Constitution one of which will prevent private donors, as such, having either voice or vote. The delegates felt this was a necessary safety measure to prevent any out-

side group from taking over the Camp. The election followed and our time was practically up, as some other group wanted the hall at 5 p.m. The meeting was considerably disturbed about this as it was felt that there was a great deal of business which had not been covered. Bro. H. Duff moved that the incoming executive take under consideration the idea of making the Annual Convention a full day and this was carried and so ordered. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Basaraba
H. Duff

What? No Orderly?

BOULDER, Colo.—Patients in the new Boulder Sanitarium drew window curtains, washed up or shaved, made toast and poured their orange juice Monday without getting out of bed.

Each patient has a motorized bed, flanked by a cabinet which contains refrigerator, a pull-down sink, outlets for shavers and other electric gadgets.

A push-button panel will adjust the bed to seven different positions, open window drapes, turn lights on or off, control radio, television, public address system—or summon a nurse.

The self-help rooms, by saving nursing care and space, paid for themselves, according to administrator Harvey C. Hartman.

Canada Watches Second Session At Ottawa

On Thursday, January 15, Canada's legislators gather in Ottawa for the second session of the 23rd Parliament. All indications are for a lively and important series of debates. The top-heavy Conservative government has a number of major problems to resolve. How they go about settling these problems will determine, to a great extent, the future of the Conservative party. Certainly they will be faced with a small but very determined opposition. The uneasy honeymoon in Ottawa is over. There is no doubt that many of the campaign speeches of Diefenbaker & Co. will return to haunt them.

Canadians will be subjecting their legislators to a very critical scrutiny, for the recent recession has been, to say the least, entirely alarming to the average citizen. It has effected nearly everyone, not just the million unemployed, but small businessman and the large industrialist, the holiday resort operator and the skilled tradesman. Has the Conservative government a solution for the varied problems?

Canadians can look for the following — further deficit budgeting necessitated by additional grants to provincial and municipal public works programmes and hospitalization payments — a major row over the final disposition of the \$400,000,000 Arrow aircraft fiasco, plus other defence contracts equally necessary to Canadian labour forces — an increase in unemployment insurance collections and the old age security tax.

Pressure has been brought to bear on the government to introduce restrictive and regressive labour legislation. In the face of

the resounding defeat administered to the anti-labour politicians in the U.S., it is doubtful if the government will court disaster by seeking to comply with the desires of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Manufacturers Association in seeking to hamstring the Canadian trade union movement. Still, all trade unionists will be watching any moves in this direction, if not apprehensively, at least very closely.

Recognition of Red China will be a popular topic. The Canadian economy demands that new markets be found for the national product, and China conceivably could be a ripe, new field. The prompt official recognition of the Castro forces in Cuba will prompt a comprehensive re-examination of the China issues.

These and many other equally important subjects promise that this meeting of the Legislature will be very, very interesting to Mr. and Mrs. Voter.

HOW GOOD are car salesmen? During the first three weeks of a car salesman strike in Seattle, sales rose 12% over the same period the previous year when salesmen were "on the job."

OTTAWA — Canada accounts for more than 60 per cent of the world's supply of asbestos, a fire-proof material, and its producers are building new facilities to turn out even more.

EVERYTHING

The old saying is that money doesn't mean everything. But these days everything means money.

—London Free Press

Soviet Head Tours U.S.

The recent movie "Around The World in 80 Days" has nothing on the recent Mikoyan tour of the U.S. for flamboyant showmanship. Pelted by eggs, greeted by placards, the hardy No. 2 man in the Russian hierarchy is apparently making a deep and favorable impression on the men who truly run the United States, the chief industrialists. And certainly his message makes sense to men accustomed to talking big business. In effect, Mikoyan is saying, "Let us make war, not with atomic devices of destruction, but by competition of our two systems. Let us pit our productive capacity and our inventive skill against the vaunted resources of the U.S. in these fields. Perhaps we shall both gain, and the world would be richer, out of such a struggle."

Mikoyan, on his part, can hardly fail to be impressed when confronted by the vast potential of American industry. No one could be subjected to the spectacle of the huge steel mills of the eastern states, of sprawling Detroit and lusty Chicago, without a slight feeling of awe. This is good. This is what the leaders of both of these mighty nations need — a thorough understanding of the tremendous capabilities of the other. Only when this understanding is achieved will the smaller nations breathe a little easier. Now they can only hope that a blunderer on either side will not plunge the whole world into destruction by underestimating the terrible strengths of his opponent.

YOUTH STAYS PUT

Young people of yesterday sought out the wide open spaces to develop. Those of today won't even move to the uncongested rear seats on the bus.

—Times-Herald, Moose Jaw

The NOTICE BOARD

DISTRICT COUNCILS WILL CONVENE AS NOTED:

Lower Mainland

10 a.m.—January 31

10 a.m.—February 1

Provincial Headquarters Building

335 West Broadway, Vancouver 10

Langley-Fraser Valley

10 a.m.—January 25

Board Room of Langley Memorial Hospital

A course in "Public Speaking For Union Members" will commence Jan. 30, 1959, at 8 p.m., in the Board Room of Provincial Headquarters, 339 West Broadway. For Local 180 members only.

Anyone wishing a receipt for union dues in 1958 for income tax purposes will please contact his or her unit Secretary, who will in turn communicate with this office. Members will please note, for their convenience, that union dues are included in the \$100 deductible presently allowed.

Alex Paterson
Financial Secretary
Local 180

Incorrect Addresses Present Problems

The recent experiment in mailing of the "Hospital Guardian" to the membership as individually addressed copies was successful to a degree. However, over 300 copies were returned to Provincial Headquarters, incorrectly addressed.

The matter of the incorrect addressing is not the fault of the committee that worked, under the direction of Eric Thomas, to mail the papers. To the best of their knowledge, Eric and the members addressed the paper according to the addresses available on record. Many of the members change address without so noting with Provincial Headquarters.

To ensure, then, that you receive your copy of your paper, (if you work at V.G.H.) please fill out the form in the paper and return to Provincial Headquarters.

This is poetry?
We get a bang out of Eric's Column — we're in hysterics;
But the guy we like best,
As he must have guessed.
Is the one who prints our lim-
ericks!
—P. Grant

Workers Get Profit Bonus

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. (CP) —The Quaker Oats Company of Canada recently distributed \$216,000 among its employees as part of its profit-sharing plan. The bonds, largest ever handled out by the firm, will be the equivalent of nearly three weeks' pay for employees at the Peterborough plant.

HUBBY WASN'T ASKED

A survey in Winnipeg discloses that wives, numbering a whopping 48 per cent, said they would not marry the man they live with if they had to do it over again. For what reason is not known, but the husbands weren't asked what they would do.

—Windsor Daily Star

Yiddish originated in the Rhineland in the 19th century from medieval German as spoken by Jews.

To V.G.H. Members

+ To ensure prompt delivery of your copy of "The Hospital Guardian", please note your correct address as indicated and return to ...

Hospital Employees' Union, Local 180

335 West Broadway

Vancouver 10, B.C.

NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

The HERBS

WHO ARE YOU WRITING TO, DEAR?

TO OUR UNION PAPER'S EDITOR

LAST WEEK I LOST A GOLD WATCH THAT I VALUED HIGHLY

... SO I PUT AN AD IN OUR UNION PAPER'S LOST & FOUND COLUMN ...

THIS MORNING I FOUND THE WATCH IN ANOTHER SUIT

IT CERTAINLY PAYS TO ADVERTISE