

PROJECT NEWS



FOR UNIONIZATION OF THE CAMPS

FOR A PERMANENT WORKS PROGRAM

Official Organ of the Relief Project Workers' Union, 60 Cordova Street West
Vol. III, No. 6 Thursday, January 20th, 1938.

Price 5¢

CRACK DOWN ON DISCRIMINATION 20 WORKERS SENT TO OAKALLA

CAMP 12 PROJECT WORKERS STRIKE TO STOP
FURTHER DISCRIMINATION

SENTENCES RANGING UP TO TWO MONTHS
IMPOSED SINGLE UNEMPLOYED BY COURT

CAMPBELL RIVER, Project 12. (By P.N.
Correspondent).

This will inform you on behalf of the men in this Camp, that a successful Strike was pulled in this Camp at noon, January 12th. Approximately ninety-five percent of the men participated.

The strike was due to the bull-doing tactics of the Foreman who has already fired about 15 men for Union activities, using the charge of insubordination as a cloak. On the day of the strike he took it upon himself to fire seven more workers, one man for no given reason, and the other six for refusing to eat a cold lunch on the job.

An investigator was rushed into Camp and finding the workers determined and united, he handled things in a favorable and business-like manner. All the men were re-instated and he guaranteed us that there would be no more discrimination.

You no doubt have heard of conditions in this Camp. These conditions eventually forced the men to take action. Last week, after two months of struggle, we finally got rid of our gut-robber; our present cook seems to be alright.

When these boys of Project 12 entered Camp, they were unorganized. Today they are about 100%. Our foreman due to his slave-driving tactics was a great help to us, as his tactics forced non-union men to realize that organization was the only weapon we have for defense and to better conditions.

Twenty of the Single Unemployed workers who resorted to can-shaking right after the New Year, were sentenced last week, by Magistrate Woods to Oakalla Jail for terms of 15 days to two months. Amongst the boys who were sentenced to the vicious sentence of 2 months, were several black-listed Project Workers, who were forced into their position by discrimination. John Currie, who was amongst those to be singled out by the Judge to do a two month term in prison, had been fired from Proj. 12.

The arraying of these workers in court was all planned and they were practically sentenced before they appeared before the Magistrate. It was evident from the proceedings that the aim of the court was to create as much intimidation as possible. They split the men up to different groups, sentencing some to long terms, others were offered transportation and some were released to be given relief.

The boys as a whole, however, feel that they have made partial gains out of this struggle. The public has been informed of their plight and the can-shaking has wrung some partial concessions, in that about a dozen of their numbers got on relief. The boys who are in Oakalla are in high spirits and appreciate the support they are getting from the Camps in the form of protest resolutions to the Government and the Tobacco sent in.

On the outside the struggle is not over, although it's notable to see that the authorities at the relief office are not as discriminative as they used to be.

BUILD THE UNION

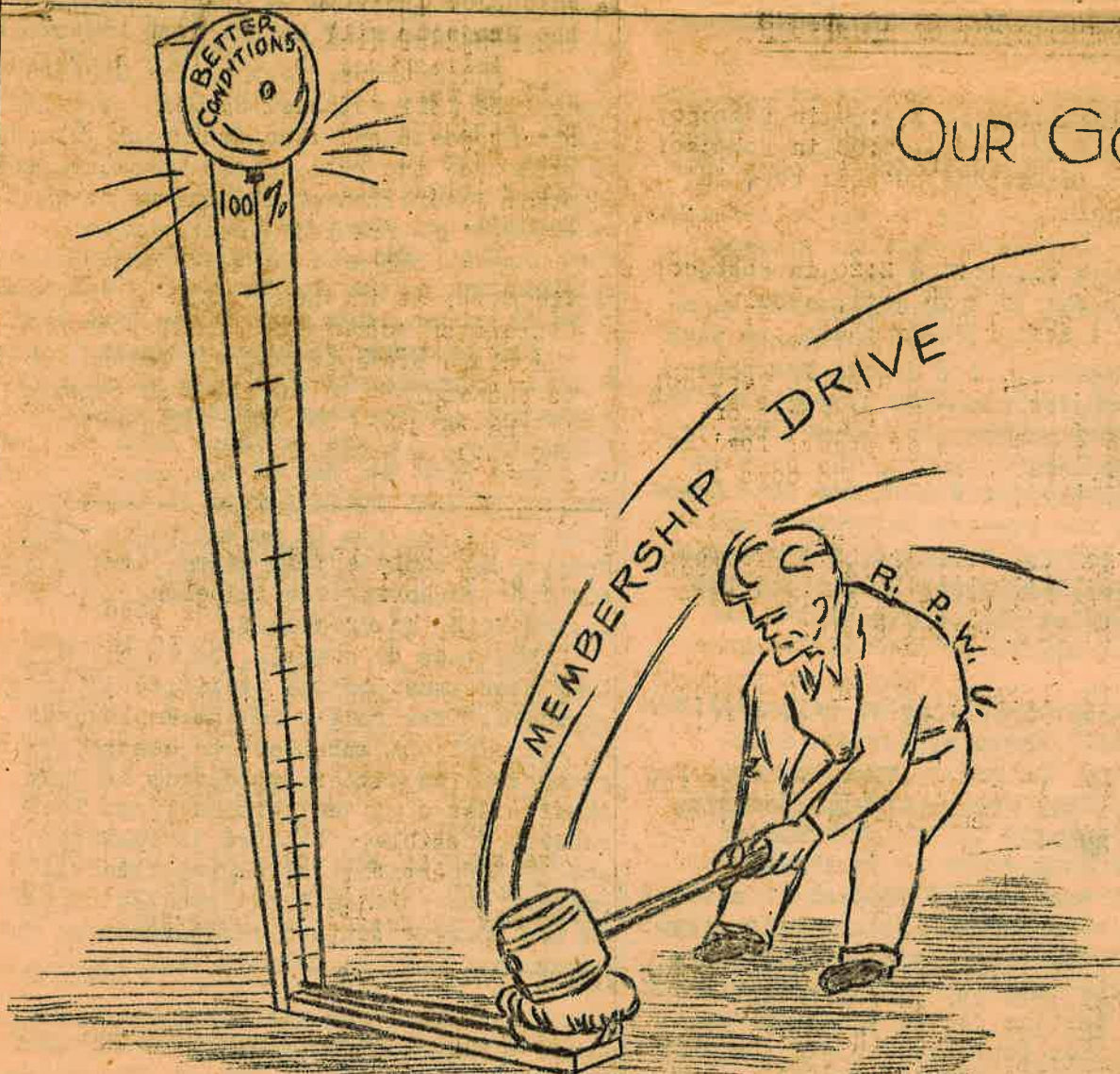
Now is the time to renew our Drive to build the membership of the Union, with the object of having every Project Worker a member of the Relief Project Workers' Union. The need for concentrating on this point is becoming more obvious as the termination of our period in Camp is rapidly drawing to a close and we are brought face to face with the uncertainty of the future.

While during our past association in the Projects the bond of Unionism was more or less cemented by our habitation of the same camp and the common conditions we had to face; now that we face a lay-off, we must have a stronger bond to hold our ranks together against the conditions that will face us. It is here that the Union stands out as that beacon or fortress that will guide us and in which we can face the issues with confidence and power.

It is only through a powerful organization, a strong Relief Project Workers' Union, that we will be sure of convincing the authorities that we are earnest in our desires to work and determined to live. It is only in an organized body under the Banner of the R. P. W. U. that we are certain to be heard and to insure the continuation of the Projects as a scheme which will solve our unemployment problem; and it is only through the Union that we will be able to strive with any effectiveness for improvements and better conditions on the Projects.

If YOU are not yet a paid-up member of the Relief Project Workers' Union, enroll now! The struggle for better conditions is not over; it's only begun, and through membership in the R. P. W. U. every Project Worker, no matter where he is or what his background, can meet on common grounds, on the common issues that confront us as a body of workers whose only protection is organization and mass activity.

JOIN AND BUILD THE RELIEF PROJECT WORKERS' UNION!



OUR GOAL—

THE SCAB'S REWARD

"I ought to get a large reward
For never owning a union card;
I've never grumbled, I've never struck,
I've never mixed with union truck.
I must be going my way to win,
So, open, St. Peter, and let me in".

St. Peter sat and shook his staff;
Despite his high office, he had to laugh.
Said he with a fiery gleam in his eye:
"Who's tending this gate, sir, you or I?
I've heard of you and your gift of gab -
You're what is known on earth as a scab."

Thereupon he rose to his stature tall
And pressed a button upon the wall,
And said to the imp who answered the bell:
"Escort this fellow down to hell .
Tell Satan to give him a seat alone
On a red hot griddle up near the throne.

"But stay! For the devil can't stand
the smell
Of cooking a scab on a griddle in hell;
It would cause a revolt, a strike I know,
If I send you down to the imps below.
Go back to your master on earth and tell
That they don't even want a scab in hell".

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DONATIONS

Project - 104 \$ 4.80 in Tobacco,
9.00 in Tobacco,
donation to be divided between boys in
jail and Spain.

Project - 8 \$ 2.20 in Tobacco,
donated for the boys in jail, credit
going to the Social Committee.

Project - 14 \$ 9.95 in Tobacco,
and Cigarette papers - 30 packages of
tobacco and 3 packages of papers for the
boys in jail, the rest for the boys in
Spain.

Project - 20 \$10.35 in Tobacco
and Cigarette papers to be divided bet-
ween boys in Oakalla and Spain.

Project - 10 \$13.70 in Tobacco
and Cigarette papers for boys in Jail.

Project - 14 \$14.00 in Cash for
comforts to the Mackenzie-Papineau Bat-
talion in Spain.

* * * * *

This list does not include donations
received before Xmas, or donations
direct to the Friends of the Mackenzie-
Papineau Battalion from the Camps.

OLD MEMBERS OF THE R.P.W.U. IN TOWN OVER WEEK END VISIT HEADQUARTERS

James Beynon of Victoria and Paddy
Ross of Prince Rupert, two old time
members of the R.P.W.U. dropped into
headquarters to meet and say hello to
former acquaintances and friends.

Paddy Ross, while in the city was
presented with the Press Drive Banner,
which Northern British Columbia re-
ceived in recognition of their good work
during the last Press Drive.

Both Paddy and Jim are closely con-
nected with labor progressive activities
in their districts, and were in the City
attending the Communist Party Provincial
Convention.

PREPARING FOR PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

The Provincial Executive of the
Relief Project Workers' Union is laun-
ching preparations for the Provincial
Conference of the Union, which has de-
finitely been set for the 12th of Feb-
ruary in the Capital City of Victoria.

The Conference will come at a time
when the Project Workers will be con-
fronted with many important issues of
which the question of continuation of
the Projects will be the most important.

Indications are that the Conference
will be well attended by delegates from
all Projects and also fraternal deleg-
ates from the Trade Union Movement, and
other interested organizations to whom
invitations are being sent.

The holding of the Conference in
Victoria, is in the opinion of the Union
Officials, most appropriate, both for
the close proximity of the Island Camps
to the Capital City, and also because
of the relation of the Government to
the Project Workers.

Not only should every worker hold
it as an obligation to belong to the
Union in the Projects, but also to
hold it as an honor; for to the Union
Members must go the credit for every
concession wrung from the Employers.

And no member can be classed as a
good Union Member if he does not pay
his dues or attend his meetings when-
ever possible, for it is only through
the support and collective discussion
of union policies, that the Union can
really represent the Membership.

JOIN THE RELIEF PROJECT WORKERS' UNION!

PROJECT

PROJECT NO. 10, Powell River.

Dear Brothers:

We held a Special Meeting January 6th to hear a report from the Social Committee re arrangements being carried forward for the holding of a "Tincanners' Ball" at the Beach Gardens Cabaret, near to Powell River, on Monday, the 17th; in aid of the gallant Canadian boys fighting for World Democracy on Spanish soil. The report showed great progress and volunteers were asked to sell dance tickets in Powell River outside the two banks on pay day. The volunteers came forward and as a result, altogether about 100 tickets were sold. The tickets being 50¢ each, you will readily see a good start has been made. We have this dance advertised in the local papers as the Tincanners' Ball which is also on the tickets as well as the fact that the proceeds will go for the Canadian boys fighting so valiantly under severe conditions for Democracy in Spain. We think the signs argue well for our dance to be a big success as we have hired a top notch orchestra.

Also at this Special Meeting, certain individuals adopting leftist procedure were put on the spot and were told to make amends, which they said they would.

With Camp Organizer Rowe in the chair we held an Open Forum meeting, Sunday, January 9th. Bro. Henderson took the floor first outlining the role of the C.L.D.L. He outlined the work of this organization in defense of Molland and Grange, and after the talk a resolution was passed unanimously calling for the release of these two men, to be sent to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa.

Bro. Cumber spoke on the necessity for Trade Union Unity, stating that to be effective the latter must be international in character. He pointed out how Pearson is working in line with Hepburn and Duplessis to crush real Trade Unionism. Today Trade Union Unity has become a burning issue because of prevailing economic conditions with it becoming necessary that the organized employed join with the organized unemployed and project workers, if the tendency to bring all and sundry to relief rates of pay is to be combatted.

Bro. Daniels in a few remarks explained the role of the labor press, showing how it is one of the chief assets to the proper progress of our people and better living conditions. We have set up an educational Committee and classes in speaking and conduct of meetings, etc. will be held regularly.

Fraternally yours,

PROJECT NO. 16, Parksville, V.I.

Dear Brother:

We held a Union Meeting a few nights ago with 52 members present. All agreed that no Jap goods or anything made in Japan was to be allowed in Camp, and the foreman was right behind the boys in this regard, stating he was going to see to it himself.

The Camp has a piano now and we hold concerts once a week and boxing bouts also once a week; in the near future we will organize a concert and dance at Essington.

There are about 100 men in this Camp and at the next Union meeting we expect to have about 30 new members joining the Union, and in the near future to have the Camp 100% organized. And by the way, talking about cooks (it's in this regard we had a struggle some time ago) we sure have one of the finest on the Coast now. He is always putting himself out to please the boys. At the Xmas Concert we held in the Recreation Hall he sent down Coffee, cakes and candy, and came down to serve it out himself.

Fraternally yours,

PROJECT NO. 22, Williams Lake.

Dear Brothers:

Just a few lines to let you know how things are going. We had a number of grievances come up at the last meeting and had them all fixed up.

Everything seems to be running smoothly in Camp now regarding the Union. Recently we elected a new secretary and we are going in for a large drive to enroll members into the Union.

We have developed sports activity in the line of hockey, but aren't yet organized enough to lick the local teams.

Fraternally yours,

PROJECT NO. 20, Saanichton, V.I.

Dear Brothers:

Received letter and receipt O.K. Thanks very much.

Please send ten more Union Cards and thirty more employed stamps, as we are getting low, are going to have a Drive for members again. We are signing up members right along and hope to build a 100% Union.

This local has sent in a resolution to Mackenzie King asking for boycott of Japanese goods and protesting the Padlock Law in Quebec.

Fraternally yours,

REPORTS

PROJECT NO. 14 Hilliers, V.I.

Dear Brother:

We held our regular weekly meeting on Tuesday which was well attended and there was lots of discussion on the boys who were sent to jail for can-shaking, and the following resolution was forwarded to Pearson and Wismer:

Whereas, it has been brought to our attention that 47 men were arrested in Vancouver for soliciting funds on the street and have been sentenced to prison because they want work which they are unable to get and refused relief; those men were forced to solicit money on the street and are imprisoned for doing so, therefore, we, the men of Project 14, Hilliers, numbering 100 at our last meeting, go on record as protesting against such treatment of the unemployed and request that they be put on relief or sent out to Camp.

We also took up the question of Tobacco for the boys in jail and we are going to take up a collection right away.

We held our first Open Forum meeting on the history of the Trade Union Movement and it went over big so we are going to hold them regular every week and with the concert and card games the boys will be kept busy.

Send us another ten Union Cards and stamps for same. Enclosed you will find \$12. for Dues.

Fraternally yours,

PROJECT NO. 4,
Campbell River.

Dear Brothers:

We received circulars and financial statement in good order and are disappointed in the small amount taken in.

Much to our regret, one of our Union Members here, was fired and we were not prepared at the time to help him. The member was discharged for a trivial reason, which was absolutely uncalled for. It was done very slyly, in fact very few of us knew about it until it was too late. The member had a legitimate reason for a showdown, and it has caused considerable disappointment with many here. We will be more prepared in the future for any such discrimination.

Enclosed find money order for dues. Things are pretty quiet now and the boys expect to leave camp any day.

We could use a few more copies of the Clarion and Advocate in the way of literature.

Fraternally yours,

NO WALKOUTS!

PROJECT NO. 5, Shawnigan Lake.

Dear Brothers:

Received your correspondence and circulars, also membership Cards and can report that we have already started an intensified Union Drive for the past month.

The success or failure of winning better living conditions in our Camp will be determined by the amount of men we can draw into our organization. Many of the workers are gradually realizing this and are joining up every week.

Our Union meetings are held regularly and are conducted in an organized and orderly fashion while our committees are working very capably.

We read with interest of the ability of organized Camps to make their time in Camps as interesting as possible. We also take pride in the fact that our brothers in Project 19 have been honored by the Chilliwack Radio officials and we send our greetings to the militant workers in Project 21 who won a victory for the R.P.W.U. when they refused to allow the authorities to discriminate against their fellow workers.

Our Camp organization is determined to carry on their present organizational drive to the limit and can be counted upon to do their part in the building of a stronger and more powerful R.P.W.U.

Fraternally yours,

PROJECT NO. 6,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Brother:

We staged a successful concert and dance in the Mount Tolmie C.C.F. Hall near here and had a fair attendance at which the project workers and the local people mingled quite freely and everyone enjoyed themselves. After the concert to which the Progressive Arts Club of Victoria contributed, as well as our own Camp talent, refreshments were served followed by two hours dancing. The Social Committee plans to present bigger and better events later.

There is some doubt and controversy here whether the \$4.00 vouchers will be in cheques or script.

We are asking once more when Doc Campbell is coming out here, as we would like to have a visit from the Provincial Organizer as soon as possible, and would like to have an idea when a Conference will be called, if any.

This week we held one of a series of lectures which appealed very much to us.

Fraternally yours,

PROJECT REPORTS

PROJECT NO. 104

Otter Point, V.I.

Dear Brother:

Our committees have been very busy during the past week. Wednesday night we enjoyed a concert by the Canadian Legion. Thursday night our sports committee sponsored a boxing program which was enjoyed by all, including some men from Milligan's Camp and visitors from Victoria. The visitors donated ten dollars to the sports committee and 58 packages of Tobacco were collected for the can-shakers.

Our Social Committee held a whist drive Friday night and collected 32 packages of tobacco for the can-shakers. These Committees have instructed when sending the Tobacco in, that it may be distributed between the can-shakers in Oakalla and the Mac-Pap. Battalion, as seen fit.

Saturday afternoon we had a football game between Milligan's Camp and this Camp. Considering the circumstances the boys from Milligan's sure put up a great battle.

The signing of members in the Union is coming right along. The conditions are fairly good and the camp officials are concerned and willing to smooth over any grievances that arise.

We have set up an Open Forum committee and expect to hold our first forum meeting this week. The subject of the address will be - the struggle for industrial freedom. We are handicapped by a scarcity of capable speakers, but feel that we can put it over by mutual support.

Doc Campbell was speaker at our general meeting this week and gave a good talk on the Union Policy. We expect he will start his tour from this camp this week.

Fraternally yours,

PROJECT NO. 17

Duncan, V. I.

Dear Brothers:

We held our regular meeting this week, and can report progress.

One of our grievances for some time has been cleaning of bunkhouses. Our Union decided to bring the matter to Victoria, with the result that the Foreman quickly decided to have the bunkhouses cleaned. Our Foreman and his office finks have been doing their best to stir up trouble and have sought to keep our social and sports committees from using the recreational by making all sorts of excuses.

Our protest to Victoria re food, has brought results, improving the food, giving us more variety and we had our first orange this morning (not Japanese).

PROJECT NO. 1,
Green Timbers.

Dear Brothers:

We have received resolutions and arbitration bill and we held our regular business meeting Monday, at which they were endorsed by membership present, about 45 men.

While supporting the Union not all the workers in this camp are members, so we are starting on a drive to enroll them into the Union.

We have had no major grievances to date and as we are so near town, New Westminster and Vancouver, also many radios, in all we have a good deal to compete with. Had a good Whist Drive and 500 rummy game last Wednesday, attendance about 75 and had coffee and cake after; it really was our first success in that line. Also we had the Vancouver Sports Club give a show, and they were thoroughly enjoyed by all the men. We have in mind to have the C.L.D.L. Players out as soon as we can gain the necessary consent. We have no piano in our Hall and no stage, but we are under way on these points.

We have not collected all dues for this month yet, but will forward same as soon as possible,

Fraternally yours,

PROJECT NO. 23,
Courtenay, B.C.

Dear Brother:

Just a few lines to let you know that our organization in this camp has been somewhat retarded by the lack of a proper contact with the Union headquarters, but that this has not altogether held us back. While we have not yet engaged in any other Union activities such as report from other Camps, yet we had a case of discrimination, which through mass pressure, we won.

It involved one of the workers who was picked on by the gang-boss. He was sent in and the foreman decided to fire him. The men in camp however, got together and interviewed the foreman and after a long discussion, he finally gave in and reinstated the man.

Fraternally yours,

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR UNION DUES?
BOYCOTT JAPANESE GOODS!

Also took up collection for Spain amounting to over seven dollars.

Fraternally yours,

- WHY ORGANIZATION -

10% is a nice profit, 20% of course, is much better, but for 50% the one imbued with Capitalist ideology would sell his or anyone else's soul to Hell.

The worker takes his working power (power to perform certain work) to market asking for a decent, fair living wage for himself and his dependents. If the market is glutted with workers, the Capitalist gets cheap man power, the worker gets bad working conditions and semi-starvation wages (except where strong Trade Unions exist). If there is a shortage of workers the Capitalist must pay a higher price and therefore receives smaller profits. This is the result of the law of supply and demand, working freely under the competitive capitalist system. This is why during the present glut of the labor market (Unemployment) capitalists are very concerned about smashing labor organizations which retard the free competition of the workers for jobs. This is why Capitalists do not desire that the state shall provide work and wages for us as it will take a vast number of young people off the labor market.

By a militant struggle the young people of P.C. have compelled the authorities to recognize that they are determined to fight for the right to live and the present scheme is a sop thrown to keep us quiet while they prepare plans and take advantage of any mistakes we make to destroy the force of popular opinion which is all for us now.

The authorities are on the defensive. The gains which we can make during the next few months can be so considerable as to lay such a firm base organizationally as to compel the Capitalist Government to provide work with wages, which is diametrically opposed to the wishes and desires of the capitalists themselves; who in the main, dictate government policy, as we have seen during our three years of struggle.

We must be under no delusions as to the present scheme, the old relief camps started out under better conditions of wages, yet because we were unable to fight in an organized manner, choose the right time to strike and strike hard, we ended up in little better than concentration camps.

This time profiting by our experiences, of the past we can reverse this process and at all times be in a position to hit back so hard as to compel respect for our organized strength and unity.

I have tried to show our position under Capitalism as the great reserve army of workers. I have tried to show that we have secured a TOE HOLD upon more solid ground. To gain a foothold and to finally reach our aim for work and real

----- FREE MOLLAND & GRANGE! -----

It is more than a year now since Harry Molland and Fred Grange were arrested, beaten up and held without bail, by Vancouver Police who stormed the Relief Office while 200 homeless single unemployed men were waiting for word from Victoria regarding relief. This was the answer of the authorities to the boys: beatings, clubs and arrests, who, because they were unemployed and starving had gathered at the relief office and were asking for assistance from the authorized government officials in Vancouver.

In the long drawn out trials that followed, the Courts and judicial officials, painstakingly worked on the witnesses, on the jury and on the public, concentrating their fire on the two leaders Molland and Grange, villifying and libeling these workers in the Press. They did everything to try to convince the public that these two workers were nothing better than outlaws and responsible for the police attack and the struggle that was put up by the single unemployed men.

In the meantime, while Molland and Grange lay in the cells of the Vancouver Police Station, the single unemployed workers, despite the losses they had suffered because of the police attack, re-organized and continued the struggle with even greater vigor. More than 400 were arrested, but as a result the Government was forced to open up Forestry Camps, and they won.

While this showed the public the underlying causes of the Hamilton Hall disturbance and exonerated Molland and Grange to them, yet Judge Hanson ignored the leniency verdict of the jury and sentenced the two workers to the Penitentiary.

DEMAND THEIR RELEASE!

wages, much work lies ahead of us. We must shed all illusions, we must rely first and foremost upon our own strength and then upon such allies as we can win for our policies. Practically all the people can be brought close to us if we work correctly for our demands are just, and our policy today is correct. Our chief danger lies in an incorrect estimation of our strength at any given time. First, if we fail to recognize the desire of the workers to struggle; secondly, from leftist individuals who want to continually push ahead and only succeed in isolating themselves from the workers. Today we have a Trade Union which has prestige. We are in position and must organize in the open, but we must be on guard against over-enthusiasm, developing left tendencies. Build our Union. Protect our Union. Treasure the good name of our Union. Forward to 100% Trade Unionism on the job!



THE DINNER BELL

by DOC



CANADIANS AID SPAIN

The young people of Canada have played a glorious part assisting the Spanish people in their heroic struggle to preserve democracy and the civil liberties threatened by the barbaric onslaught of Fascism. The threat of Fascism in usurping the rights of the majority of the Spanish people, (80% of the electorate voted for the Popular Front program), is proof that we in Canada, are faced with the grim realisation that it can happen here - unless we prevent it.

The thousand Canadians who represent the finest traditions of our Country embodied in the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion of the International Brigade have left us, prepared to lay down their lives that Fascism shall not pass. There are some people of course, that are strongly opposed to Canadians "meddling" in the affairs of another country. "Why don't they stay at home and mind their own business?" they say. If the question of preserving democracy and civil liberties were only a 20th Century "phenomenon" we may agree with their point of view, but history proves otherwise. The American Revolution of 1776 was a popular revolt against the tyranny of Britain, which laid the foundations of the American Republic. The people who actively supported the American fighters for democracy were labelled as 'traitors' by the English ruling-class. It was progress that brought about the Declaration of Independence, which would not have been possible without the material aid of the freedom loving peoples of the World in that century.

Again, in the last century, Greece, after 300 years of Turkish tyranny, revolted to drive the invaders from their country. Men came from all over the World and fought for Greek Liberty (much the same as the International Brigade in Spain), to save the country from barbarianism. The famous English poet, Lord Byron, although exiled from his native land, gave his fortune and his life in the struggle for Greek independence. Greece beat back Turkey and received her national equality, despite the sabotage of the powerful nations of that time - Great Britain, France, and Czarist Russia.

A parallel exists today in regard to Spain, except that theirs is a different alignment of these three countries. We are able to see that the preservation of democracy and of freedom has always burned in the hearts of men. The difference is that it has International significance today. It concerns every man, woman and child from cities of millions to the last outposts of the Northlands. We can, therefore, point with pride to the fact that there are over 200 workers from this province fighting against Fascism in Spain. Some that you may have met and known intimately, have given their lives, but where their life-blood has flowed into the Spanish soil, a new and freer life will arise that will be an eternal monument in the hearts and minds of democratic and progressive people the World over.

The support of the Canadian people has expressed itself in donations of Food and Clothing; funds for orphans' homes, for refugee children, medical supplies, etc. Although the Canadian Government refuses to assist the Loyalist government of Spain, we have rendered all this aid.

The task that faces the Canadian people is to see that the Government of this country recognizes the democratically elected government of a fellow-member of the League of Nations and gives it all possible support, against what amounts to open aggression by Italy and Germany.

- WM. TURNER.

ORDER OF UNION BUTTONS DELAYED

The order of Union Buttons which was placed by the R.P.W.U. with a Montreal firm, is being delayed by what appears to be the effects of the Padlock Law of Quebec.

It will probably be necessary to place the order with some other firm in view of these circumstances.