

FEDERATION

News and Views



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
FEDERATION OF TELEPHONE WORKERS OF B.C.

VANCOUVER, B.C., DECEMBER 12, 1952

BROADWAY PRINTERS LTD.



Merry Christmas

from
**THE PRESIDENT OF THE
FEDERATION**

It is the wish of myself and the Board of Directors of the Federation that all members and their families will enjoy a very Joyous Christmas and the utmost prosperity and happiness in the New Year.

I would also like to express our best wishes and Seasonal Compliments to Mr. Pipes and the Management Staff of the Company, with our thanks for their past co-operation, and looking forward to our continued good relations in 1953.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

ROBERT BELL, *President.*

from
THE EDITOR

At this happy and festive season of the year it is my privilege to convey to you sincere Christmas Greetings.

Activities of the past year have once again indicated progress of considerable quality and quantity for the Federation of Telephone Workers. It has been a busy and successful year for your negotiating body and for the membership.

Progress along the lines of your Federation Publication have not, unfortunately, been so satisfying. New interest and support for this branch of your Union could easily rectify this regrettable situation. A New Year's resolution to give continued support to your Federation and its activities—and honor this resolution throughout the coming year—will do more for you and your Federation than you could possibly conceive.

And so we, the News & Views Committee, extend to you hearty Compliments of the Season and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. A wish of continued success and even greater support goes out to our Federation and all its officers with thanks for their unselfish efforts on our behalf.

CHARLES J. FINCH, *Editor.*

from
THE MANAGEMENT

I am happy to have this opportunity of again extending Yuletide greetings to each of you on behalf of the Company and myself.

While the year 1952 has been a year full of complexities for both Management and employees, our mutual problems have been resolved in the same spirit of understanding and goodwill which has characterized our relations in previous years.

Management looks forward with confidence to a continuation of that same spirit of co-operation in the coming year.

It is my sincere wish that the Christmas Season and the New Year to follow hold much happiness for all of you.

W. S. PIPES, *General Manager.*

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FEDERATION OF TELEPHONE WORKERS OF B.C.

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Associate Editors—

FLO. ALLEN (Traffic)

G. KNOX (Plant)

MARNIE BURTON

This is your last issue in the current series of NEWS AND VIEWS. We use the word "current" because it is sincerely hoped by all officers of the Federation and those interested in the paper in any way that sometime in the near future, interest and demand from the membership as a whole will be sufficient to warrant publishing a monthly paper again.

The decision to cease publication of the paper as at December 31st of this year was taken after due advice to the membership and consideration of all alternatives. The question was originally brought to the attention of the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting held early in the year. Recommendations from two of the three divisions favored discontinuance of the News and Views in full or part. As the remaining Division had not discussed the question with its membership the Board decided to leave the question over till the Semi-annual meeting.

In the edition of the News and Views that followed the Semi-annual meeting, considerable space was given to the advisability of continuing publication and an appeal was sent out to the membership for their point-of-view on the paper. **NOT ONE PERSON CONTACTED THE FEDERATION OFFICE IN THIS REGARD.**

Such apathy amongst a membership of over 5,000 is very disheartening to its officers. And the expenditure of better than \$3,000 per year on a publication that isn't, apparently, of much interest to those 5,000 is wasted money and effort on everyone's part. For this reason it has been decided to discontinue publications on the present basis.

It's up to YOU and YOU and YOU whether we go to press on a monthly basis again. **DO YOUR PART!!** Get behind your Union and become an ardent member. The Federation of Telephone Workers has done so much for your living conditions. Support all your Division activities and ensure that your Federation lives! **C.F.**

* * *

It is extremely unfortunate that the publication of our paper must cease. However, the cost has been considered too great to publish a paper in which only a few people have taken an interest.

Apathy will kill other things besides newspapers, and unless the Federation receives greater support by more members taking an interest in their own affairs, then the Federation could quite easily meet the same fate as News and Views.

Unless the membership gets out and takes a more active part in the business our organization cannot go forward, but will simply stagnate and fade out of existence. All of the people who in the past have worked for News and Views did so because they felt that a union should have an official publication; also because they, themselves, were interested in bringing to the membership items of interest.

Some day, perhaps, we will be fortunate enough to revive or start another publication, providing, of course, that our organization does not meet the fate of being killed by **apathy.** **G.K.**

NOTICE

Mr. I. Shulman, who represented the Federation on the recent Conciliation Board proceedings, has been retained on behalf of the Federation and its members on the following terms:

Their offices shall be available to Federation members at all times during business hours (or in case of emergency, by special arrangement) during which times you may call upon them for advice without charge. Any work done by their office on behalf of members will, of course, be charged for at normal rates.

In addition to this, the Federation officers may call upon Mr. Shulman at any time to discuss legal problems concerning the Federation itself.

We would therefore urge that you consult Mr. Shulman if you find it necessary to secure personal legal advice or action.

B.C.T. Golf Club Annual Banquet

Club members and visitors celebrated the conclusion of a highly successful golf season by enjoying a field day featuring a President's and Vice-President's match, followed by refreshments and a sumptuous banquet at the Fraser View Golf Club on Saturday, October 25.

Mr. W. S. Pipes, General Manager, was guest of honor and presented the Hamilton Trophy to the winner, Harry Gordon-Findlay; runner-up prize to Ken Galbraith; first flight winner, Jock Clark, and second flight winner Jim Madden.

Jim Baigent, President for the 1952 season, then presented the following trophies and prizes: Carlisle Trophy to Ralph Spicer; runner-up prize to M. Sutherland; Rickards Trophy to Jock Clark; runner-up prize to Carl Haspel, and Munro (Eclectic) Trophy to Don Beale; runner-up prizes to Don Weaver, Ken Galbraith, Don MacKenzie and Carl Haspel.

In concluding the banquet the members extended a very hearty vote of thanks and appreciation to Jim Baigent, president; Ken Bell, vice-president; Don Weaver, secretary-treasurer, and Tom Halford, team captain, for the very successful season enjoyed by all.

The annual meeting and election of officers for the 1953 season will be held in the month of January, at which time we hope to show the 1952 World Series pictures and the 1952 Canadian Open Golf Tournament. Everyone will be welcome.

Clerical Division

On behalf of the Clerical Council, it is my pleasure to extend to the members of the Clerical Division, Season's Greetings.

We hope that each and every one of you enjoy a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

These wishes are also extended to all members of the Clerical Council and members of the Executive, to which I add my own personal greetings and thanks for the co-operation I have received in the past year.

William Docharty,
General Secretary.

Traffic Division

On behalf of the Traffic Council, it is again my pleasure to extend warmest Christmas greetings to all Federation members, together with sincere personal good wishes to the officers and members of the Traffic Division.

Also, I would like to convey the compliments of the season to the management personnel of the B.C. Telephone Company and the Okanagan Telephone Company.

I trust that the coming New Year will be a happy one for all Federation members.

Thelma Mathias,
General Secretary.

Curling Club

The B.C. Telephone Curling Club season got underway on October 17, 1952, and at the time of this report has completed five weeks of play.

Standings in the league thus far are as follows:

	W.	L.
D. Goddard	5	0
C. Holden	5	0
E. Edwards	3	2
D. Holden	3	2
W. Baillie	2	3
J. Nelson	2	3
N. Decosse	2	3
W. Fritz	2	3
A. Padgham	1	4
J. Adamson	0	5

Officers of the B.C. Telephone Curling Club for this year are: W. Baillie, president; G. Tyre, vice-president; A. Padgham, secretary-treasurer.

Anyone interested in learning the game should contact W. Baillie, DExter 5857-R, or A. Padgham at ALma 2341Y. Spares are needed almost every week.

A cavalry recruit was at his first riding practice.

"I don't like the look of this horse's head," he complained.

"Don't worry, you'll soon get over that," the instructor replied.

THE HIGH COST OF EATING

By BERT MARCUSE
Director, Trade Union Research Bureau

HOW MUCH IS YOUR FOOD BUDGET?

The above is the title of a food budget compiled by Margaret E. Smith, for the Health League of Canada.

The budget represents minimum food purchases for a family of four and it costs \$109.72 per month. Basis of the choice of foods is "sound nutrition" (providing the man of the family isn't doing the type of heavy work that requires additional calories). Food prices are based upon Toronto, April, 1952, prices which are somewhat lower than B.C. prices. Even so, it will be obvious that for any worker earning less than \$219.00 a month take-home pay the year round, food alone will eat up 50% or more of the family's monthly income. Figure out for yourself how much will be left over to divide between all the other necessities such as housing, clothing and medical and dental expenses. Then deduct the amount spent on food and other necessities from your income. The rest can be used for "luxuries" such as education, vocations, transportation, insurance, household furnishings, newspapers, tobacco, entertaining and recreation. Is it any wonder then, that organized

workers are demanding enough wages for an adequate standard of living?

CHEAPEST FOODS UP MOST IN PRICE

But let's have another look at Miss Smith's food budget. It reveals some unpleasant facts. Potatoes, for example, once the humble vegetable even the lowest paid income groups could afford, has increased 441% over its 1939 price. Stew-meat, a staple food in the depression years, is now an eagerly appreciated treat—four and one-half times its 1939 price. Incidentally, Miss Smith is no dreamer. The most expensive meat in her budget is boneless pot roast. Even minced round steak is too great a delicacy for her family of four. (90c a lb. in Vancouver, September 16, 1952!) The other meats on her budget are pork (not "calf") liver, pork sausage, stew-meat—and for Sunday mornings the family is allowed $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound of bacon (the entire weekly allowance).

The family is allowed 6 quarts of whole milk and 6 quarts of skim milk a week. They don't eat margarine but must confine themselves to two pounds of butter per week (one half pound per person per week which was Canada's wartime ration.)

Notice

MILLER'S JEWELERS

**10% DISCOUNT
COMPANY CO-OPERATION PLAN**

For the past few years Millers Jewelers has established a "Company Co-operation Plan". This plan entitled employees of the firms qualifying as members to a 10% discount on all merchandise. The Federation of Telephone Workers of B.C. is again given this privilege.

All employees and associated members must have proof of membership when making purchases.

OFFER EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1952.

12:30 B.C.T. Bowling League

Team	W.	L.
15 Sadie Micona	8	2
1 Lorne Dryer	8	2
13 Nadia Rurak	7	3
12 Jim Ross	7	3

High Averages

Ladies: Lureen Miller, 184; Pat Sutherland, 183.

Men: Jim Ross, 209; Lorne Dryer, 192.

High Team Score

Sadie Micona (Nov. 12), 815, team 15.

Nadia Rurak (Nov. 26), 784, team 13.

High Individual Score

Ladies: Eileen Swartz (Sept. 24), 303; Iona Lundblom (Oct. 1),

Men: Jim Ross (Nov. 26), 292; Lorne Dryer (Oct. 22), 263.

Complete up to and including Nov. 26, 1952. ERVA ROED.

One O'clock Bowling League

AS AT NOV. 26

Ladies' high average: Bobbette McKean, 208; Trudie Brown, 177; Irene Gay, 176.

Men's high average: Tom Williams, 172; Jim Dennis, 164; Fred Moonen, 162.

Ladies' high single: Bobbette McKean, 273, 270; Norma MacMullan, 245.

Men's high single: Stan Phillifant, 277; Jim Dennis, 269.

Ladies' low single: Marg Wardhaugh, 18; Marg Tressidin, 57.

Men's low single: Stan Phillifant, 75; Gil Auchenuck, 87.

Leading team: Team 5: Tom Williams (Capt.), June Gavin, Joan Grieve, Betty Maylo, Won 8, lost 2.

AUSTERITY RULES

THE LARDER

Miss Smith doesn't pretend that her food budget is more than a minimum. She states that careful management will be required—and how right she is.

A Thanksgiving turkey, a Christmas roast or a T-Bone steak for dad on his birthday means the family eats beans for the next fortnight (up 240% in price).

As for entertaining those out-of-town friends or giving grandfather a change from the starvation diet of an old-age pensioner these social amenities are almost out of the question.

What's more, mother has to be something of a genius. She has to be a master chef (with insufficient tools), she has to be an expert manager and she should have a diploma in home economics. And in the spare time she has after pounding the pavements for food bargains, she can keep house and look after the kids. Naturally, no value whatsoever is placed upon her twelve to sixteen-hour day. Mother has become the modern twentieth century slave.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

For too long now, every time the workers approach the boss for a wage increase they are met by the shocked statement, "But your wages have kept up to cost of living increases!" "So what?" the workers say, "maybe our wages have even gone up more than the government's phoney Cost of Living Index—but we still don't get paid enough to live decently!"

The staff of the Trade Union Research Bureau now refuses to

argue with employers about the D.B.S. Cost of Living Index. Neither we, nor the Unions we represent, are interested in a phoney, inaccurate index which is not a living cost index in the first place but merely a survey of the price increases in certain selected and often unrepresentative items which make up part of our living costs.

What we argue for today is an adequate standard of living—the earnings required to maintain a worker and his family in good health and decency. Wages tied to a distorted Cost of Living Index at the best condemn a worker to a static, never improving standard of living. Actually wages which merely keep pace with the D.B.S. Cost of Living Index result in constantly dropping purchasing power. Because of the inaccuracy of the Cost of Living Index, because of the increase in taxes, a worker whose wages have exactly kept pace with the Cost of Living Index is actually worse off today than he was in 1939.

The time has come when Unions must refuse to even discuss the DBS Cost of Living Index. Instead they must demand a Canadian Standard of Living Index—one which will provide Canadian workers and their families with everything meant by the word "health" as defined in the constitution of the World Health Organization where they state:

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

Surely, this is not too much to ask?

Building a Union

Unions are not built overnight. They neither resemble skyscrapers, locomotives, automobiles, nor crops. They are made of an uncertain, unpredictable human element. Not even an army offers a good parallel, because union men are required to think, to reason and to forecast. Merely to take orders is not a union man's business. Mechanical wheel and turn under the bawling of a top-sergeant's direction is not enough.

Physical presence of workers in an organization; names entered on records, payment of dues; going out on strikes—these are but the beginning of organizations. What is more essential is psychological mobilization; something must happen to men's minds; a union man must come into harmony with a great tradition, feel a part of it, and learn to go along with it; a union man must "belong."

A union is not an assembly of \$50-a-week capitalists. To herd individuals into an organization is not enough. Attitudes toward co-operation must become habitual. Until they do, the organization is likely to become more like a mob, or at best, a Rotarian convention, than a union.

How long it will take to make a union depends in large part upon the union material which is to go into it; and at the same time how much counter-education the new union heads can supply to offset the all-persuasive propaganda of the boss. It is likely that it will take five years to build any kind of organization, and perhaps longer. A union must prove it can live through depressions as well as survive the fire of the bosses' educational campaigns.

And just as we cannot build a union in a day, we cannot build a union overnight. They are made of human men and women. Such material cannot be shaped like sticks and stones. It must adapt itself to a great ideal—yes—a great ideal—the ideal of co-operation; the ideal that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. —Electrical Workers' Journal.

Concerned about her husband in the Navy, a wife sent a note to the pastor. It read, "John Anderson having gone to sea, his wife desires the prayers of the congregation for his safety." The minister read aloud: "John Anderson having gone to see his wife, desires the prayers of the congregation for his safety."

The Christmas Spirit

You speak to people you ignored before

With a smile on your face you open the door,

On the trolley bus every one is your friend;

After Xmas all this comes to a very sad end.

You walk through the streets and see smiling faces,

What matter if some be of different races,

For this Christmas season is the time to unbend,

But alas, after tomorrow, how quickly it ends.

Come on in Jack and I'll buy you a drink,

Of how much it will cost you never think,

But last week hah, he wouldn't buy a round,

And you likened him to a bug on the ground.

Well, that's how it goes as each year rolls round,

With a little Xmas spirit see the new friends you've found;

Don't forget next week when it's done with and o'er,

When you meet them again, you never saw them before.

—G.K.

Doctor: "Now, take a deep breath and say nine, three times."

Willie (after inhaling): "Twenty-seven."

The industrialist who eyed his wife over the dinner table in surprise and remarked: "That's a beautiful necklace you're wearing, my dear."

"Yes, isn't it darling," answered his wife. "I found it in the back seat of your car."

Marriage is a mutual partnership: The husband is the mute.

"That quack who cured me wants a testimonial. What can I say?"

"Just say: 'He is an unqualified success'."

Among the anglers trying their luck on the pier was one man who was tying a bone on the end of his line. "What do you think you'll catch with that?" he was asked.

"Dogfish, of course," he replied.

Some cause happiness wherever they go, others whenever they go.

Plant Division

Greetings! In taking advantage of this opportunity extended to me I wish each and every member of the Federation of Telephone Workers of B.C. the most joyous Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year.

My only request is that we all do our part to make that feeling of peace and goodwill, so abundant at this season, prevail throughout each and every day of the coming year.

N. G. Pettigrew.

Shocking

A British shopkeeper was sent a telegram saying his ticket had won \$150,000 in a big sweepstake. He happened to be at home nursing heart trouble, and his wife opened the telegram. Fearing that the sudden news might cause a fatal shock to her husband, she asked the family doctor to dinner and requested him to impart the good tidings with professional tact. After dinner the doctor drew his patient to one side.

"How's business?" the doctor began.

"It could be better. I could use a few hundred dollars," said the shopkeeper.

"Well," smiled the doctor, "you have a sweepstake ticket. What would you do if you won \$25,000?"

"Nobody ever wins," the man answered with a sigh. "But if I won I would send my family to the seaside and pay my debts."

"Suppose you won \$50,000?"

"I would buy a house in town and one in the country."

"What would you do if you won \$150,000?"

The man looked up. "Doctor," he said solemnly, "I swear I would give you half of it."

The doctor gasped, opened his mouth, and dropped dead.

Prominent Building Service Man Dies

Death came suddenly to well-known and much-liked Jack Burton of the William Farrell Building Service staff.

Jack will be missed by many for his wit and personality. He could be very humorous and also quite serious when the occasion warranted. He served Local 5 in the capacity of vice-president up until the time of his passing and had that evening attended a local executive meeting. To his family we extend our deepest sympathy.

Charlie Card Ends Long Service

Saturday, November 15, brought to a close Bro. Card's long term as secretary-treasurer of Local 5. Charlie served about seven years, which is quite a long time in any job. However, Bro. Card can feel satisfied that he gave the local his best and we join him in wishing his successor the best of luck.

LOCAL NO. 5

The annual meeting of this local was held on Saturday, November 15. All business was suspended in order that the election of officers could be carried out without waste of time.

The following officers were elected:

President, Bro. F. Devoe.

Vice-Pres., Bro. L. Caddick.

Executive: Bro. J. Murray, Bro. T. Perry, Bro. Fowler.

Sec.-Treas., Bro. J. Fisher.

Plant Council, Bro. K. Chapman.

The meeting observed one minute's silence in memory of Bro. Jack Burton, who passed on a short time ago.

Don't forget your local meetings. Come and support your new slate of officers.

Heard On The Party Line

That Bro. Frank Sims won \$500 recently in a local paper contest. Nice going Frankie boy.

That if the price of Pontiacs fails to drop soon, the coffee-maker at Cedar is either going to raise the price of coffee or change his affection in the automobile family.

That Marlyn Monroe paid a very, very, very short visit to a certain lunch room but didn't find enough room to stay, besides she doesn't like cigar smoke.

Van-Tel Credit Union

Operated by Telephone Employees

SAVE SOMETHING EVERY DAY