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Strike of hospital engineers averted as agreement reached

TRIO OF OLD-TIMERS at the Prince Rupert Society get-together in Vancouver was (l. to r.): Harry Cherry, 82, a Boer War veteran and former CNR employee, who arrived in Prince Rupert in 1907 and remained for 47 years; Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, 75, who lived in the city from 1909 to 1944; and C. J. Graham, 91, engineer on the first trans-continental passenger train into Prince Rupert in 1914. Mr. Graham was resident here from 1910 to 1935.

Union gets boost of $15 per month

There will be no strike of engineers at the Prince Rupert General Hospital, administrator Edward H. Knight announced today. The engineers, members of Local 510 of the International Union of Operating Engineers last night accepted an offer by the the now-resigned hospital board of a $15 a month wage increase.

The increase, which amounts to 4.4 per cent, will mean an additional salary cost of $900 to the hospital a year.

The engineers asked for a boosts of $20 a month or 5.8 per cent.

The union was also granted all other fringe benefits recommended in the unanimous section of a recent award by a conciliation board. A majority award of the conciliation board recommended January 27 that no wage increase at this time but said the matter should be reviewed in July. The union nominee filed a minority report on the wage issue.

The settlement, which averted a strike called for one minute past midnight tonight, was reached after meetings yesterday afternoon and last night between the personnel comittee of the former hospital board and Edward Callan, internationalal representative of the union and M. B. O'Toole, business agent for Local 510.

At a special meeting Sunday, the hospital board association empowered the personnel committee to offer the engineers a 3 per cent wage increase, take the matter before County Court Judge W. A. Schultz for arbitration or reach an agreement the best way it could to avert the strike and keep the hospital open.

The board agreed Sunday to hold back resignation of five of its elected members and on appointed representative, until a final dispute with the engineers was settled.

Mr. Knight said that it was hoped that the wage increase would be included in the approved budget from the British Columbia Hospital Insurance Service but in the meantime the money will come from the hospital's bank overdraft, which after the March 5 payroll, will stand at approximately $15,000.

In the meantime an unusual situation faces the Prince Rupert Employees association Local 5 which met with conciliation officer G. A. Carmichael, and the personnel committee of the former hospital board last Thursday.

The 52 full-time Civic employees at the hospital now have no one with whom to negotiate.

Last Thursday the union pressed its demands for a wage increase of $115 a month, changes in the layoff and rehiring clause and institution of two consecutive days off a week.

J. S. Black, business agent for the Civic Employees, said that the union would just have "to wait and see what happens" when Mr. Carmichael sends back his recommendations.

Health Minister Martin in a wire to the administrator has urged that an emergency meeting of the hospital association be held to elect a new board.

However, with the annual meeting of the hospital board set for March 26, it is believed that the association will wait until that time.

Diefenbaker seeks more defence work

OTTAWA (CP)—Prime Minister Diefenbaker says the Federal government wants a fair-share—not just crumbs—of North American defence production contracts.

But there is no assurance that the U.S., which controls the bulk of defence production work and which would have to pass on work to Canadian plants, will accept all Canadian demands.

Mr. Diefenbaker said Tuesday in the Commons that the government has made it clear to the U.S. "that sharing in production is mandatory, and that Canada will not be satisfied with crumbs."

Mr. Diefenbaker said Canada will have a full and equal participation in all decisions of common defence, but referring to Canadian requests for U.S. assurances on production sharing he added: "Those assurances we have not achieved—not in their entirity."

The Prime Minister did not give concrete indications of how far the U.S. may go in sharing defence production with Canada.

Mr. Diefenbaker spoke late in a two-day debate on defence which ended Tuesday night when the huge Progressive Conservative majority defeated the combined Liberal-CCF opposition on two non-confidence motions.

A Liberal motion charging that government delay in determining air defence policy and co-operation with Canadian allies is preventing effective use of Canadian production facilities and man-power was defeated 175 to 42.

A CCF addition to that, stating that the government's hesitation contributed to "the erosion of Canadian sovereignty," was turned down 176 to 42.

TWO FOUNDERS of the Prince Rupert Society in Vancouver are secretary-treasurer Arthur Thompson (left), who lived in the city from 1910 to 1924, and president, Dr. Carl Reich, a Prince Rupert resident from 1945 to 1951. Shown with them at the Society's annual dinner dance in Vancouver is Mr. Thompson's wife, daughter of old-time resident C. J. Graham.
—Gwynnes Studio photo.

Accreditation denied high school but department sees improvement

Booth Memorial High School has again been denied accreditation by the provincial government, but members of District 52 board of school trustees were not too worried about it at last night's meeting.

Acting chairman K. F. Harding read a letter from deputy Education Minister J. F. K. English stating that the accreditation committee had decided not to accredit the school.

But, the letter said: "It is noted by the committee that your staffing situation shows some improvement. It is hoped that this will lead to a greater measure of instructional stability and that the gains in pupil achievement evidenced in last year's departmental examination results will continue."

Principal R. F. Lucas commented: "Accreditation does not necessarily involve recommendation of students. It gives us the privilege of accrediting students; it is not mandatory. Even with accreditation we don't feel we would necessarily wish to take advantage of recommending students."

School trustee William Homenuk said: "We should strive for accreditation but, having achieved it, I would say the writing of examinations would be a wonderful stimulus to keep the students going."

School costs climb $101,446 for 1959

Cost of education in School District 52 is up $101,446 over last year, school board trustees learned last night when budget estimates were tabled.

The budget for the coming year is $731,1440 compared to a 1958 budget of $629,694.

Reasons for the increase are a boost in debt payments due to new schools and increases in teachers salaries.

Last year teachers' salaries were estimated at $373,459. This year they are set at $438,137, a boost of $64,678.

Debt payments this year stand at $100,273 compared to $71,304 in 1958.

A total of $20,220 in surplus and miscellaneous receipts brings down the basic cost to the district to $710,920.

The provincial government will pay an estimated $126,351 in basic grants.

Of the total $142,927 will be non-sharable.

William Homenuk, chairman of the finance committee estimated that the total requisition on the City of Prince Rupert will be $251,361, leaving $333,208 to be raised by the rural area.

The estimates have been sent to City Council and to the department of education.

Mr. Homenuk emphasized that the government grant and the apportionment of costs between the city and the rural area were only estimates.

Canadian note warns America

Ottawa (CP) — The Canadian government has informed the United States it sees no justification for restrictions on import of Canadian oil.

It said in a note to the U.S. that any system of import restrictions "must have an adverse effect on Canadian-United States relations."

The note, dated Feb. 19, was tabled Tuesday in the Commons by External Affairs Minister Smith.

It said the Canadian government understands the U.S. is considering replacing present voluntary oil import curbs with a system of mandatory restrictions.

Mah Bon Jack funeral held

Funeral was held Sunday for well-known city Chinese resident Mah Bon Jack who died February 24 in Prince Rupert General Hospital at the age of 80.

Rev. Dr. R. W. K. Elliott officiated at the service in Ferguson Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were: Chuck Mah, Jack Mah, Mah Tun, Jack Lem, Ling Bo Shang and Chow Doon.

Interment followed at Fairview Cemetery.

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Eisenhower to meet Macmillan

WASHINGTON (AP) — A mid-March meeting between President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Macmillan is being arranged to discuss new negotiations with Russia on the German situation.

The Soviet government has conditionally agreed to a foreign ministers' conference but on terms U.S. officials call unacceptable.

Diplomatic authorities indicated the United States, Britain and France probably would send counter-proposals to the Soviet Union, insisting that any meeting on German issues be wide open as to the problems which can be discussed.

Macmillan is expected to fly here late this week for the conferences. He told reporters in London Tuesday he hoped to talk with Eisenhower by the middle of the month.

INTER-TOLL DIALING SYSTEM SCHEDULED HERE BY APRIL 4

The new inter-toll dialing plan which will enable Vancouver and other major centres' telephone operators to dial long distance calls right through to anywhere in Canada, is expected to go into effect on April 4, Arle A. E. Jones, superintendent of the Prince Rupert Telephone department said today.

Mr. Jones said that Miss Jessie E. Nicholson, of Vancouver, travelling training supervisor for the B.C. Telephone company, has been visiting the local telephone department with information regarding the new inter-toll dialing system.

Eventually, operators in Prince Rupert will be able to complete their long distance calls simply by dialing a given code to reach a city and the customer's number direct.

Operated boat while impaired, given $50 fine

Lawrence Pollard of Prince Rupert was fined $50, costs or in default of payment sentenced to one month in jail when he pleaded guilty before Magistrate E. T. Applewhite in city police court this morning to a charge of operating a vessel on inland water while his ability was impaired.

RCMP told the court that Pollard was quite impaired when he was apprehended in the Prince Rupert harbor.

BLANTYRE, Nyasaland (AP) — Police and jungle-trained troops patrolled the streets today as an uneasy quiet settled over Nyasaland in the wake of bloody rioting that claimed 27 African lives Tuesday.

Pioneer rocket streaks towards moon, then sun

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Pioneer IV, the most spectacular entry yet in space rivalry, raced toward the moon today in a path that appeared certain to put it in orbit around the sun.

Revising earlier estimates, space scientists calculated that the tiny gold-plated cone will streak within 38,000 miles of the moon today. From there they hope it will move into a solar orbit.

Melvin Hanberg funeral held

Funeral of well-known city fisherman, Melvin L. Hanberg, 43, was held Monday at Ferguson Funeral Home with Rev. Arthur Olson officiating.

Mr. Hanberg, a resident of this city for more than 20 years, died last Wednesday night aboard the fishing vessel Oldfield at Bella Bella.

Born in Weldon, Saskatchewan, Mr. Hanberg came to British Columbia in 1936 and to Prince Rupert in 1937 and started fishing.

He is survived by a daughter Elaine, six brothers, Henry, Leslie and Manley of Saskatchewan; Irvin of Vancouver and Arthur and Llyle of Prince George; and two sisters, Augusta of Saskatchewan and Mrs. Marianne Vuckovich of Prince Rupert.

Hymns sung were "Rock of Ages" and "Beneath the Cross of Jesus."

Pallbearers were: Carl Rosang, Ivan McGahn, Olaf Juvik, James Haldane, Christopher Fossum and Erling Wick.

Burial followed at Fairview Cemetery.

New B.C. act trims powers of labor, management

VICTORIA (CP) — Radical new legislation which would make management and labor organizations legally responsible for their actions has been proposed by the British Columbia government. Simultaniously, it wants to curb the picketing powers of unions.

The action was forecast Tuesday in a new act introduced in the Legislature by Labor Minister Lyle Wicks. It brought praise from management and condemnation from labor.

The legislation, given first reading without discussion, provides that picket lines can be maintained only where a legal strike or lockout is in effect.

Result of Strikes:

Behind the legislation are a long series of crippling labor disputes in the province affecting construction and forest industries as well as a host of smaller businesses.

Briefly, the new legislation would outlaw:

- Sympathy picket lines;
- Token picket lines;
- Secondary picket lines, which up to now stop men from going to work on other jobs besides those where a strike has occurred;
- Picket lines at firms where unions are involved solely in a jurisdictional dispute;
- Information picket lines, such as those which advise that a certain firm is non-union.

The legislation also declares that unions and management groups free from legal suit, although individual union members and firm could be sued.

At the same time, the legislation made it clear that injunctions obtained with only one side being present in court—known as ex parte injunctions—would be good for not more than four days.

Top executives of the B.C. Federation of Labor said Tuesday night there now is no doubt that the government and management want to "legislate the trade union movement out of existence."

From Ottawa, President Claude Jodoin of the Canadian Labor Congress promised, in a telephone interview, the "fullest co-opreation" of the CLC in any campaign against the act.

A survey in Vancouver of business leaders showed unanimous approval of the bill. It was described as a "step forword" by Archie M. Cater, President of the Vancouver Board of Trade. Ralph Pybus, construction executive and past president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, said "we agree with what has been done."

Prince Rupert has now gone 48 days without a fatal traffic accident.

WEATHER—

Gale warning in effect. A few showers and some sunny periods Thursday. Little change in temperature. Winds westerly 20 late tonight. The low tonight and high Thursday 35 and 45.

TIDES—

Thursday, March 5, 1959
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	10:26	19.3 feet
	23:28	18.3 feet
Low	04:17	8.6 feet
	17:04	4.3 feet