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TWENTY-SIXTH CONVENTION of the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia, a session of which is shown above, concluded late yesterday afternoon with the election of officers for 1959. Re-elected Brotherhood president Robert P. Clifton and Mayor P. J. Lester described convention as outstanding success.
—Staff photo.

Premier hits at Briggs, denies juggling figures

Repeats that debt will be wiped out

PENTICTON (CP)—Premier Bennett Thursday night lashed out at "people who want to smear everything but are afraid to stand in the firing line of political life themselves."

Addressing the annual Civic Affairs banquet of Penticton Board of Trade, Premier Bennett called on Lee Briggs, former general manager of the B.C. Power Commission, to identify "in the name of decency" the publisher he claimed had told him that the Social Credit party in B.C. distributed its "Six Years of Social Credit" booklet at $1 per copy.

The premier defended government proposals regarding the B.C. Power Commission's debt and denied any "juggling of figures."

He also declared his willingness to stake his government's future on the agreement made with the Wenner-Gren interests.

He said relocation of the Kruger Hill portion of Highway 97 just south of Penticton had been held back to provide winter employment and work would now "go ahead forthwith."

Stuart Hawkins, Board of Trade president, said in introducing the premier that the meeting was not a political one. After the premier's address Mr. Hawkins observed it had been "the most fascinating non-political speech" he had heard.

Regarding the Power Commission which Mr. Bennett observed was a "semi-autonomous body", he quoted from the budget speech of former Premier Byron Johnson in March, 1952, to show that net advances from the Commission along with sinking fund payments had never been included in the province's net debt.

However, the Power Commission's payments for liquidation of its debt had never been secured and the government proposed to put them on a permanent basis according to a formula which a trio of independent experts were to determine.

This would not cost the Commission's customers a cent more, the premier said.

He said Mr. Briggs, as Power Commission general manager, visited the cabinet four or five times a year and had never indicated dissatisfaction.

"Then all of a sudden, he's an expert on everything."

Mr. Bennett reiterated his promise that the province's net debt, which totalled $191,000,000 in 1952 will be wiped out in the next budget.

Contingent liabilities, however, will continue to grow because [illegible] guarantees of investment."

There were touches of humor in the occasion. At one point in his catalogue of Socred accomplishments in highways and bridges, the premier observed that the Okanagan Lake bridge at Kelowna was called the longest bridge in the world connecting two hardware stores.

Mr. Bennett's hardware retail chain includes stores at Penticton and Kelowna.

Mayor C. E. Oliver was called upon to thank the premier for his address and launched into an electioneering style review of Penticton's waterworks problems over the last two years.

"Mr. Premier, we have a big water problem here," the mayor said. Premier Bennett promptly handed him a glass of water.

CREDIT UNION RESERVE BOARD TO BE NAMED SOON—BONNER

VICTORIA (CP)—Attorney-General Robert Bonner said Wednesday a five-man credit union reserve board will be named soon.

He said the board would be operated "like a central reserve bank guaranteeing deposits" to credit unions which might get into financial difficulties.

All B.C. credit unions would contribute an amount not exceeding one fifth of one per cent of its share capital and money on deposits.

The board was approved at the last sitting of the legislature, which required that 85 per cent of B.C. credit unions—representing 85 per cent of the total share capital—approve.

Mr. Bonner said that more than 85 per cent now have signified approval.

"Consideration will be given to members of the board prior to the proclamation of the statute," he said.

CONTROVERSIAL CASE

Man faces trial Monday after 41 weeks in jail

Trial of a Cassiar man, Joseph Benedict Gerand, charged with three counts of indecent assault upon a male, will be heard before Judge W. A. Schultz in County Court here Monday.

Considerable controversy came about after Garand had been held in jail for almost 10 months without a trial. He spent 41 weeks and four days in jail.

Judge Schultz set December 8 as peremptory date for the trial in Prince Rupert. (Peremptory means the trial must go on that day regardless of circumstances).

Garand was jailed without bail January 18, 1958, released on bail March 15, re-arrested three days later and held in Prince George provincial jail until November 7.

The trial is being held here as Cassiar is in the Prince Rupert County Court district.

Judge W. C. Morrow of Prince George ordered Garand's release November 7 on his own recognizance.

Crown Prosecutor for the case will be Frank S. Perry of Prince George. Defence counsel is not yet known.

R. P. Clifton returned as Brotherhood leader

Robert P. Clifton of the Comox Indian band was returned to office as president of the Native Brotherhood of B.C. late yesterday afternoon as the brotherhood wound up its three-day convention in the Canadian Legion auditorium.

Mr. Clifton, son of Heber Clifton, the last remaining founder of the Native Brotherhood, was re-elected with a resounding majority over Guy R. Williams of Steveston and Godfrey Kelly of Masset.

Former business agent Edward Nahanee of North Vancouver was elected secretary by acclamation. He succeeds George N. Wilson of Bella Bella. Elected treasurer was Herbert Cook.

The expected election contest between Rev. Dr. Peter R. Kelly of Nanaimo and Frank Calder of Kincolith for the chairmanship of the legislative committee did not materialize. Mr. Calder told the convention that due to an arrangement with his employer he did not belong to a union nor pay dues to the Brotherhood [illegible] not in good standing [illegible] for the election, ruled that according to the brotherhood's own constitution only members in good standing could run for office.

Dr. Kelly was declared re-elected as chairman of the Brotherhood's legislative committee when B.C. Indian Commissioner W. S. Arneil, chairman [illegible] Peter, Alberni-Sound; Clarence Joe, Sechelt; Edward Sparrow, Vancouver; Walter Harris, Kispiox. There were no delegates present from Ahousat, Anahim Lake, Hope.

Other neutrals conducting the election of officers were Fisheries association of B.C. president James Sinclair as secretary and J. R. Ayres, editor of The Daily News as scrutineer.

District vice-presidents elected were:

Johnny Clifton, Skeena River; Hubert Doolan, Nass River; Lazelle Charlie, Burns Lake; Godfrey Kelly, Queen Charlotte Islands; Henry McKay, Central district Bella Bella; James Sewid, Alert Bay; Charles Peters, Cape Mudge; Moses Smith, Ceepeecee; William Pascal, Lillooet-[illegible]

Natives seek full liquor privileges

When the sound and fury of the Native Brotherhood of B.C.'s "wets" and "drys" died yesterday afternoon the 26th annual convention of the Native Indian organization voted overwhelmingly in favor of asking the provincial government for full liquor privileges.

The lengthy debate between those delegates who wished full equal drinking rights with whites and those who wanted a plebiscite in each village, took up most of yesterday afternoon's final convention business.

Nearly two score resolutions went unheard due to the shortness of time and the convention eventually voted to have the new executive deal with the resolutions and forward them to the B.C. Indian commissioner.

The liquor resolution was presented by Kenneth Harris, who also presented a similar resolution of his own which laid the blame for the August 2 riot here on "an irresponsible, antiquated law whose only tendancy is to segregate the Indian from his white friends."

Mr. Harris' resolution blamed discrimination established by the Liquor Act for the disturbances and said the only manner the Indians were implicated was by their presence in large numbers.

His resolution was not voted on.

The Nass River resolution stated that since the right to buy liquor from a government liquor store rests with the provincial government and that government has the power to grant this right to the Indians of B.C. then the newly-elected executive of the Native Brotherhood of B.C. should prepare a brief relative to a request for full liquor privileges.

Rev. Dr. Peter Kelly, chairman of the Brotherhood's legislative committee and a United Church minister in Nanaimo said there was more to the issue than just getting beer by the case and liquor from the liquor store.

On the one hand, he said, it was an imposition for Indian war veterans not being able to join their white veteran friends in a drink.

"On the other hand, I have seen a house burn down and seen the charred bodies of a mother, father and brother and two children lying in the ruins.

"A child of nine who escaped the flames told me that he tried to wake his father, but couldn't because he was 'dead drunk'," Dr. Kelly said.

He said liquor was no problem for 60 per cent of the Natives while the other 40 per cent "went off the deep end."

The executive committee had decided it was too big a problem for it to handle and he urged that it be left up to the villages to decide for themselves if they wanted full liquor rights.

Thomas Gosnell of Port Simpson said the provincial government should extend liquor rights to the Indian on a permit basis.

He said that those Indians who knew how to handle their liquor and behave themselves should have their permits to buy liquor renewed. Those who abused the privilege should lose it.

Skidegate delegate Fred Russ urged passage of the resolution on the grounds that the fact that he couldn't have liquor made the Indian feel a victim of discrimination.

The present situation was that "if you can't go into liquore store then you go to a bootlegger."

He said that on the Queen Charlotte Islands he lived for years where there was no beer parlor or liquor store. However, he added there were "plenty of bootleggers and homebrew in every other home." Since a beer parlor had been built he hadn't had a drink of home brew for years.

"At first we were in the beer parlor every day. Now I only go in occasionally, sometimes not for weeks. The novelty has worn off."

The Indians should be given a chance to learn to hold their liquor, he said.

Dr. Kelly said that at first, he

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See — NATIVES

Firefighters back bylaws

A resolution supporting the sewer renewal and extension bylaw and also the bylaw for building a new firehall, was unanimously adopted by the International Association of Firefighters Local 559, at its regular meeting last night.

The firemen's union also instructed the secretary to write the Prince Rupert Labor Council, asking it to take similar action.

30 days jail for neglect of children

A Port Edward woman was handed a 30 days jail sentence and her husband had his six month jail term suspended by Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite in city police court this morning on a charge of failing to provide the necessities of life for their children.

Pleading guilty to the charge were Gerald R. Budd, 26, and Dona Hanna Budd, 28.

Mr. Budd was also required to place a $100 surety along with his sentence.

$50 fine for liquor offence

William Donald Cornish of Prince Rupert was fined $50, costs or in default of payment sentenced to 30 days in jail when he pleaded guilty before Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite in city police court this morning to a charge of unlawfully having liquor in a restaurant.

Delay Slated

VANCOUVER (CP) — Dominion Bridge Co. said Wednesday completion of the new Second Narrows Bridge will be delayed the length of time the royal commission investigating the bride's collapse "held up the damaged steel." This was four months and would delay the bridge's opening to near the end of 1959.

Did you know?

. . . That every person who, when in possession or control of a motor vehicle permits it to be driven or operated by a minor who is not the holder of a subsisting driver's licence permitting such operation shall be guilty of an offence against Section 71 of the Motor Vehicle Act of the province of British Columbia.

Temperatures fall steadily

Temperatures dropped to 20 degrees above zero at noon today it was reported unofficially.

At the same time Digby Island Radio Station reported the mercury went down to 25 degrees above zero from 35 degrees late last night, although it has held a steady 25 degrees since 4 o'clock this morning.

Cider back

VANCOUVER (CP)—British Columbia-made cider is once more available in all liquor stores. The drink, which went on the market for the first time last year, sold out almost immediately despite its original cost that was reduced to $4 a dozen.

Immigrant starts long swim to sea

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. (CP)—Louis Lourmais, 38-year-old French immigrant, staggered from the Fraser River at Stone Creek Thursday after swimming 27 miles southward from Prince George. It was eight degrees above zero.

Lourmais, accompanied by a friend, Len Van Egmond, in a small boat, had covered the 27 miles in four hours.

He hopes to swim the entire 400-mile distance from Prince George to the sea. Today he proposes to make it to Quesnel, 50 miles south of Stone Creek.

He is attempting the swim to the sea "just to show it can be done." He swims in a suit of foam rubber.

When he reached Stone Creek he had a badly swollen lip. "I kept hitting my head on ice flows," he said.

He was asked whether he felt the cold. "Well, of course, but after a while you don't feel it any more."

Friends in a car cavalcade, following along a riverside roadway, lost contact with him when he swam into swift-flowing and dangerous Fort George Canyon.

"It was very fast swimming through there," Lourmais said.

"I didn't hit any rocks but when I was through the canyon, I decided that was far enough. I changed, and we went to a farm house."

The farmer gave him and his companion a meal, then drove them to a hotel in Stone Creek.

B.C. hunters shot 22,000 deer, elks

NANAIMO (CP)—An estimated 18,000 deer were shot this season by British Columbia hunters, regional game biologist Don Robinson said Thursday.

Mr. Robinson said the near-record bag was the result of a mild winter in 1957-58, plentiful food this spring and "enlightened game management practices."

The elk season, which closed in mid-October, resulted in a kill of nearly 60 animals for island hunters, with an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 for the province.

SQUAMISH, B.C. (CP)The body of Gary Price, 17, of Squamish was recovered from Howe Sound Thursday by Vancouver divers Dave Arnold and Gerry Foster. It was in 30 feet of water.

The youth was one of two drowned when a car crashed off the government wharf here Monday. The body of John McDonald, 23, of Bralorne, was recovered Tuesday.

VANCOUVER (CP)—The International Woodworkers of America are seeking the services of the provincial department of labor in an effort to settle their dispute with the northern interior lumber industry.

The move follows the recent IWA strike vote in which union members voted 59 per cent in favor of a walkout. The employers claimed a victory, however, because the union got a strike majority in only 15 plants. Unionists in 17 others voted against a walkout.

KELOWNA (CP)—An increase in telephone subscribers in Kelowna and district and re-classification of the exchange by the Public Utilities Commission has resulted in higher rates for telephone users here.

The rate increase, which went into effect Dec. 1 under conditions of the PUC-approved operating tariff, boosts the charge for individual and two-party lines in private homes by 30 cents a month.

The rate for telephones on four-party lines increased by 25 cents, while business phones went up 60 cents a month.

VANCOUVER (CP)—George A. Cross, 58, visiting his wife at Vancouver General Hospital, told a nurse he felt tired, then collapsed. He was taken by stretcher to an operating room but died despite efforts of doctors who opened his chest to massage the heart. The incident was disclosed Wednesday.

Liberian freighter picketed

VANCOUVER (CP)—The Liberian freighter African Baron was being picketed today in a four-day boycott called by the International Transport Workers' Federation against ships of Liberian, Panamanian and Honduran registry.

She was the only ship still being affected by the boycott.

Owners of four other Liberian ships secured court injunctions Tuesday against the boycott, but the Italian owners of the African Baron preferred to sit it out until Friday, when it is expected work will commence on loading her lumber cargo.

An estimated 150 ships are tied up by the boycott against flags of convenience in world ports, of which 106 are in the United States.

Over 2,000 Bingo cards still left

There are still more than 2,000 Elks March of Dimes Bingo cards of the second series left, an Elks spokesman said today.

Should two identical cards win the game, two prizes of $500 will be given.

However, if there are two winners that are not holding duplicate cards, one $500 prize will be divided evenly between the two.

The other $500 will then go—as all other profits from the drive will—to the crippled Children's hospital.

City businesses where tickets may be purchased are as follows: Esquire Shop, Grotto Cigar Store, Mansons Jewellers, Ormes Drug Store, Deeth's Pharmacy, and Ben's newsstand.

The second three numbers drawn by Exhalted Ruler J. M. Ely this morning are as follows:

0-62; N-43; and I-28. Numbers drawn previously were: B-6; B-3; and O-6.

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Carlson makes statement on school overcrowding

Gordon E. Carlson, who is seeking a two-year term on city council at the December 11 elections, denied today that his work as a train conductor would keep him from civic work.

In a statement, Mr. Carlson said: "Although I am employed in the capacity of train conductor, I am in essence loaned to the Columbia Cellulose Co. in that capacity. Except for brief periods I am in the city most of the time."

Dealing with the proposed school bylaw, he said that because of the incapacity of Conrad Street school to cope with the expansion in its area, the school board has had to rezone and divert students to the other elementary schools which were already filled to capacity.

"This has created an unhealthy situation, as individual attention by teachers has to be denied young students in order to cover the year's cirriculum and to keep order—a difficulty created by overcrowding.

"This is a most dangerous position for our city. This situation has existed since the war years."

It is no wonder, the statement continued, that the high school has such a hard time holding its accreditation, and that so few of the student graduates there finish university.

Young minds are impressionable. If they do not get individual attention, poor and sloppy habits will be the end results, Mr. Carlson said.

"If the teacher's specialized training cannot be applied it is a gross waste of the taxpayers' money and an appalling neglect of our most important resource: young minds to propagate our society."

GORDON E. CARLSON
. . . will have time

WEATHER—

Mostly clear along the mainland but with cloudy periods and a few snow flurries on the islands. Continuing cold. Winds easterly 15 but frequently northeast 25 down mainland inlets. Low tonight and high Saturday 28 and 37.

TIDES

Saturday, December 6, 1958
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	00:14	20.6 feet
	21:50	18.1 feet
Low	03:50	7.3 feet
	15:54	5.7 feet