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Yukon Solidly Organized Into Mine-Mill Locals

VANCOUVER—Since last summer Brother Barney McGuire has been in the Yukon assisting the workers in establishing a local of the Mine-Mill. In the few short months since that time organization has gone ahead to the extent that Brother McGuire was able some time ago to apply for certification at Mackeno Mines and at the United Keno Hill.

A certification vote was conducted by the Department of Labour at Mackeno recently and an overwhelming majority of the employees signified their desire to be represented by the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union.

The application for certification of both Mackeno and United Keno Hill was dealt with by the Federal Labour Relations Board at their November meeting in Ottawa and certification granted on both properties.

Brother McGuire was assisted during the organizational campaign by Brothers Allan Mc-

Nabb and George Smith. The District News congratulates these brothers and the rank and file who have overcome all difficulties of organization in this remote area, and have established their union.

The job for which the members joined the union remains to be done but with the kind of effort that has been put into the organizational campaign, there can be no doubt that the outcome of subsequent negotiations will result in vast improvements for the workers of these two companies.

Local 651 Certified

KIMBERLEY: Local 651 has been certified as the bargaining agency for the employees of the new CM&S fertilizer plant, concluding a long series of negotiations with the B.C. Labor Relations Board.

Meetings are to be called in the near future to elect shop stewards and draft a proposed union agreement for the workers.

Poor Little Bluebell Is CM&S Orphan

RIONDELL — The Bluebell conciliation board, under chairmanship of P. Gomery, concluded its hearings in the Nelson courthouse December 3, and the report should be forthcoming next week.

The CM&S company was represented by Mr. A. Ham, operator of the Western Exploration property at Silverton. Harvey Murphy represented the union on the board. Local 651, which is the bargaining agency for the Bluebell CM&S operation, was represented by President Bill Booth who was assisted by Canadian Research Director Lukin Robinson. The bargaining committee at Bluebell, headed by chairman A. Schultz, along with Brothers Dobbs, Comfort, Munroe, and Harrison attended the sessions and gave evidence which was based upon the union's brief calling for the establishment of the Kimberley wage scale and agreement.

The CM&S company was represented by A. V. Marcolin, who is assistant to Ed. Benson in the personnel department. Along with Marcolin was H. Giegerich, mines division, D. Campbell, Bluebell superintendent, Patterson, and accountants.

The CM&S vigorously opposed any improvement in the present

agreement at Bluebell, claiming that with the drop of lead and zinc prices they could not accept the principle of any wage increase. In this hearing the CM&S appeared not as the CM&S company but as a small little mine operator. Martollif stressed to the board that he had no authority whatsoever to go beyond the written submission, which he vigorously defended in attempts to prove that "little" Bluebell cannot have the same wage scale as Kimberley.

The unusual feature of this conciliation board was that the CM&S appointed as its representative a manager of an operation which, at the present time, has a lower wage scale than even that at Bluebell, whose mine at the present time is not in operation, only the mill being active. It was quite obvious to all present that there was no conciliation possible in such a set-up, and that the board would have to make recommendations.

Layoff At Trail Calls For 40-Hour Week

TRAIL—On Saturday morning, December 5, E. Benson on behalf of the CM&S company notified the union that there will be a 25 percent cutback in zinc production.

This was instructed from the head office in Montreal, he stated, and would become effective before the end of the year in all likelihood. It will involve the lay-off of over 200 men. All those with seniority to January, 1951, will be laid off.

This was a serious blow to the whole community. A special union membership meeting was at once called in the Legion Hall on Sunday evening, and was fully attended, the hall being filled despite the short notice.

The executive of Local 480 had met previously and considered the problem, and recommended unanimously that the union propose a cutback of two hours per week on condition that the men be retained. At present the Trail operations are on a 42 hour week with provi-

sion in the agreement to go to a 40 hour week. There was considerable discussion at the union meeting which adopted the executive recommendation, and in view of the principle involved the matter was submitted to referendum.

At the present time Kimberley mine and mill are actually working what amounts to a 32 hour week.

The meeting was addressed by the Regional Director who explained the executive recommendation, while pointing out: "This is far from an ideal

solution, nor can this be the last cutback under present conditions.

"We should establish the 40 hour week and adopt in principle the policy opposed to lay-offs. The problem is one that the government must deal with at once. A policy of trade relations with countries that will buy lead and zinc would remove the necessity for this present lay-off. The union will do everything in its power to bring pressure to bear upon members of Parliament to in-

(Continued on page 5)

Members Elected

SUDBURY: Local 598 members Stan Racicot and Albert Gravel were elected December 7 to Sudbury city government, as two of the four candidates backed by 598.

Stan became a controller, and Brother Gravel alderman for Fourrier Ward. David Purdie and Nick Skakoon, candidates for the council in McCormick and Ryan Wards respectively, failed at election.

Organizer Appointed

ROSSLAND: At a meeting of Ladies' Auxiliary, Local 131, Sister Dosen was appointed organizer for the local, with finances up to \$15 monthly, until "such time as an organizer is appointed by the International."

The meeting authorized five dollar donations to be sent to the Jencks defense, and to the League for Democratic Rights to help fight against Bill 93.

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year