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Cominco Bargaining Suffers Short Hoist Awaiting Ottawa Decision

TRAIL—By mutual agreement, the Joint Bargaining Committee of Locals 480 and 651 and Cominco, have adjourned further negotiations till the first week in June.

The latest three-day session in Kimberley resulted in a proposition that will be brought to special meetings in Trail and Kimberley.

The Inco-Cominco Co-ordinating Committee has met in the east to consider further plans and the results of these deliberations will be made known shortly. The first meeting of this committee brought both representations to the Ottawa government and a promise of speedy action on the pension issue in Inco and Cominco.

Veteran members on the Joint Bargaining Committee have stated that this is one of the most arduous and difficult bargaining years in their experience. Although the processes of bargaining are still under way, the feeling of the union's representatives is that much has already been accomplished.

Presidents of both locals in Trail and Kimberley have been high in their praise of the co-operation shown by the eastern local and the desire of all locals concerned to formulate policies that would secure benefits for their members which could not be had by independent action.

These travel-weary brothers, Presidents Al King and Clem Thompson, and Regional Director Harvey Murphy, are doing a tremendous job of cementing the kind of relations between east and west which the respective companies have always feared and dreaded.

Inco is presently going into conciliation to resolve their difference, and the western representatives will be there to assist with their knowledge and experience. During the early

He Sings Again!

VANCOUVER, B.C.—Paul Robeson will give two concerts this year on the International border for British Columbia and Washington friends, one at Patterson and the other, as usual, in the Peace Arch Park at Blaine, Wash.

The Patterson concert will synchronize with the holding of the National Convention at Trail, taking place on July 17, and will be within easy ride of Trail, Kimberley, Spokane, and Coeur d'Alene points.

The Peace Arch concert, for three years now the outstanding musical event of the Northwest, will be held the following Sunday, July 24.

stages of Cominco negotiations, President of Local 598, Sudbury, Mike Solski, sat in with the local committee and ably assisted with advice and information.

The main reason for delay in negotiations at present is a decision by the government. The locals concerned were asked to prepare a brief for presentation to the Finance Minister, which was done. It is expected that this will have results which may have a far-reaching effect on bargaining and it is therefore advisable to consider possible alternatives that would benefit Inco and Cominco employees.

Highland Bell Negotiations Open June 1

BEAVERDELL: President Ken Smith visited the Beaverdell Local on May 13 when the local prepared to enter negotiations for a new collective agreement. The present agreement expires August 1.

Brother Smith discussed the proposals for a new agreement at the membership meeting, and suggested that a committee should be set up to study the agreement in full.

The membership indicated that in addition to their interest in an across the board wage increase this year, they were interested in improving vacations, statutory holidays, and shift differentials.

The company will be advised of the intention of the union to open negotiations around June 1, and further membership meetings will be held at that time to adopt the demands to be placed before the management.

Ask Conciliation Officer At Wells

WELLS: Local 685 have applied for the assistance of a conciliation officer in a dispute with the Cariboo-Gold Quartz Mines Limited.

International Representative Brother Andy Cavil assisted the committee in their final meeting with the company, which resulted in the company refusing to make any concessions around the wage or other questions so important to the membership at this time.

This property's present wage rate is below that of any other gold mine in the province, and the membership have signified the determination to eliminate inequities. Application for the services of a conciliation officer were made by President Bob Purdy and Secretary Angus McLean.

Editorial

Support Is Our Right

The decision to be made by the Dominion government is whether its own policy as enunciated in publications of the government will be adhered to, and the pension plans of the Consolidated and International Nickel be changed to conform with the policy of vesting.

This decision must be made certainly by the time these pension plans come up for ratification for taxation purposes at the end of the year. The almost unanimous support for the position of the union committee by the workers in Cominco and International Nickel has forced this matter to the front.

The action taken by the National Co-ordinating committee which met with members of Parliament along with the Honourable James Sinclair, minister of fisheries, brought out into discussion the fact that the pamphlet issued by the Department of National Finance commits the government to insist upon the working men employed in these two companies having a vested right in the pension, as the booklet points out, after 20 years of service and at the age of about 50 years.

The CM&S company and International Nickel both have had plans approved by the same government department for many years which are in clear violation of this established policy. What will the government do? Are large corporations to be permitted to continue to get away with pension plan arrangements which do not guarantee pensions to the employees, and for which the Dominion government allows huge taxation rebates? There are almost eleven-million dollars in the pension fund at Cominco because of taxation exemptions for pension purposes to the employees. The workers have earned this. They should be assured of their pension.

The union wants this established. As long as this is done we are not concerned with who gets the credit, whether the Dominion government or the board of directors, as long as it is done.

Workers should have a right to earlier retirement if they so desire, without their pension protection being affected. The Consolidated in its letter to the employees sets out a proposition that hardly gives the membership any credit for thinking matters out. No, the union did not propose that the pension plan be subjected to a one year or two year agreement. We realize that pension plans are not a matter for one year or two years. The union did not propose this. The CM&S in its letter speaks of the other people who are covered by the pension

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