

## CM&S Negotiations Commence For Two Dollar Objective with Increased Vacations, Welfare Fund

The joint committee elected by the membership of Locals 480, 651, and 690 has been called into session in Trail on April 5 to prepare for the meeting with the CM&S negotiating committee which will convene on April 7 to commence negotiations for a 1951-52 agreement, covering the CM&S operations in Trail, Kimberley and Calgary.

In this one negotiation six thousand workers will be represented by the Mine-Mill negotiating committee. The wage demands and other contract changes have been developed at union meetings in all three operations after months of discussion. It was on the basis of these proposals that a meeting held with the National Wage Co-ordinating Committee in Vancouver completed the program and recommended it to the locals.

Highlighting the program this year is an across the board increase of 35 cents an hour which would bring the basic rate of the miner in stopes and the special operators to \$2.00 an hour, with proportional increases to other categories. The union is also proposing changes in the overtime provisions of the agreement by setting the start of the work week so that overtime would be paid for all workers on Saturdays and Sundays regardless of working schedules in continuous operations.

The negotiators this year are proposing a reduction in qualifications for the third week and the annual vacation with pay plan, as well as the removal of the qualifying clauses on paid statutory holidays. The committee is also instructed to propose to the company a welfare plan based upon a set amount on the basis of the output of lead, zinc and silver. This welfare plan is for the benefit of sick and injured workmen and to augment pensions as presently established, similar in some respects to the plan now in effect in the coal mines. Committees of the union have been working on the re-drafting of certain clauses in the body of the present agreement.

These negotiations mark the ninth annual negotiations between Mine-Mill and the Consolidated. Ever since the union has become established in these operations, negotiations every year have brought about improvement in wages and working conditions. The bargaining committee this year has been greatly strengthened, reflecting the increased solidarity of the union, and as a result of the democratic processes of Mine-Mill constitution and procedures, the company knows that when it is dealing with the negotiating committee that the proposals being made are not just the opinions of the officers but have been fully discussed and developed by the rank and file, who will be the final judges of the results of the negotiations.

The CM&S company has had a very prosperous year. The base metal markets have been netting the company a tremendous return. Millions and millions of dollars profit are being invested in the expansion of this giant company's operations. Working men who are the producers of this wealth and prosperity should receive the first consideration, and the negotiating committee will certainly make this plain to the company.

Reports will be made to membership meetings and to the workers as the negotiations progress, and they will be informed of all developments.

## Metalworkers Sign Contract with Westeel

CALGARY—Metal Workers, Local 800, International Union of Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers, announced March 15 that a new agreement had been reached with the Westeel Products Ltd., which provided wage and contract gains averaging 27 cents hourly for the Mine-Mill membership in the company's Calgary plant.

The settlement provides for increases in the wage rates from 25 to 36 cents hourly; an increase in shift differential; (Continued on page 5)

## Alberta Act Amended by Legislature

CALGARY — The Alberta Legislature meeting in its annual session passed legislation implementing the report of a special legislative committee on Workmen's Compensation.

The report recommended an increase in compensation payments from the former 66 2/3 percent to 75 percent of the worker's earnings. An increase of minimum payments to \$25 weekly, elimination of the three-day waiting period, increase in funeral benefits, upping of the wage ceiling to \$3000, and doubling per diem allowances, are also proposed.

The Mine-Mill brief presented by a large delegation representing all Alberta locals, called for 100 percent compensation.

### EDITORIAL

## For Action On Gold

Negotiations are now under way with the various gold mines in B.C. The changes in the value of the Canadian dollar which has gone above par and has meant a reduction in the price of gold as received by the mining operators, may become a factor in bargaining.

Mining of marginal ores is very drastically effected by this change. While the operators are quick to bring this up in bargaining to the workers, whose cost-of-living has also drastically increased and whose wages are now below those in base metals, we must make it very clear this time that our agreements cannot be based upon the price that the employer receives, or his profits. The wages are paid to men to provide them with a living and it is the duty of the union to bring wages up to maintain and improve living standards.

The matter should be taken up at once with the Federal government. The workers cannot be called upon to sacrifice out of their meagre earnings for the maintenance of the gold mines. This union stands prepared at any time to go before the Federal authorities which should be responsible. The onus rests on them to bring about amendments to the emergency Gold Assistance Act, and the members of parliament representing the gold mining constituencies should press now for changes in the Act. The life of whole communities is at stake.

The Federal government, which stepped into the cattle business on the development of hoof and mouth disease, and is re-insuring the ranchers, and has also at this session made provisions for the tree fruits industry in the Okanagan who were badly hit by conditions over which they had no control, should on the same principle take a greater responsibility for the maintenance of the gold mining industry which is vital to Canadian economy, and which not only provides employment to thousands of miners but supports entire communities.

The solution is not by paying a low wage to the men, because men are leaving the industry. The bringing in of European labour which has to be trained, is a costly business and is bound to fail. The problem of the industry should be tackled directly by legislation, because this union will certainly not agree to the maintenance of the gold mines at the expense of wages and working conditions of the men. It was the initiative taken by this union that compelled the government to institute the present emergency Gold Assistance Act. More needs to be done now.



THE RAH-RAH GANG

They thought the ship was sinking. Now they would like to come aboard again!