

*Vancouver Dock Strike*

## GLACE BAY, N.S., SUB-COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS

## Mr. RALSTON:

For a copy of all applications, reports, ratings and correspondence in the possession of the government or the civil service commission, in connection with filling the recent vacancy in the position of subcollector of customs for the port of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

## FARMERS' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT

## Mr. CASGRAIN:

For a copy of the letter addressed by Mr. M. A. MacPherson, on March 27, 1935, to agents appointed under the terms of the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, and a copy of all correspondence exchanged between the said M. A. MacPherson and the government in that regard.

## CHARLEVOIX-SAGUENAY RURAL MAIL SERVICE

## Mr. CASGRAIN:

For a list showing:—

1. The names of all contractors in charge of the carrying of rural mail in the county of Charlevoix-Saguenay, with the dates on which the contracts were let, the terms and the distance to be covered in each case.
2. The contracts let by tender, the name of those to whom they were awarded without tenders, and those whose contracts were renewed.

## VANCOUVER DOCK STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): In the absence of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon) I should like to ask a question of the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), although it does not strictly involve any question of government policy. It is in reference to the regrettable disturbances that took place in Vancouver yesterday afternoon. Has the Prime Minister any statement to make, in particular as to the advisability in the public interest of appointing a royal commisison under the Inquiries Act to inquire into the matter?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Anticipating the possibility of such a question being asked I got a memorandum from the Department of Labour with respect to the matter, and when I came to the building I found the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) had sent a note to me that he proposed to ask the question which he has just asked.

The information as far as I have been able to obtain it indicates that early in February of this year the Vancouver and New Westminster Waterfront Workers Association (longshoremen) notified the British Columbia Shipping Federation that

[Mr. Ferland.]

they desired to reopen the agreement then existing, the main points to be considered being (1) making effective a six-hour working day, (2) union control of dispatching of longshore gangs, (3) elimination of the differential of four cents an hour between shore and ship gangs—the rates at present being respectively 81 cents and 85 cents—and (4) the establishment of a new minimum rate of 95 cents per hour in line with the rate effective in the United States Pacific coast ports. Numerous other items were involved, such as the refusal of members of this association to work with non-union labour.

An exchange of correspondence followed between the shipping federation and the longshoremen, covering a considerable period, but no apparent headway was made towards settlement of any part of these demands. Press reports intimated that the longshoremen were likely to go on strike at any time, and Mr. F. E. Harrison, the western representative of the federal Department of Labour advised both parties in writing that the conciliation services of the Department of Labour were available upon request by either or both parties, at the same time calling to their attention the requirements of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act that if a dispute could not be adjusted through negotiation these matters would first have to be dealt with by a board of conciliation and investigation.

On April 25 a mass meeting of the longshoremen in Vancouver was held and the following among other resolutions were adopted:

1. An assessment of one per cent of all longshoremen's wages would be made for one pay period to assist relief camp workers now on strike.
2. A cessation of work was agreed to on the 29th of April between the hours of three and four p.m. as a protest against relief camps.
3. No work would be performed on May 1, May day; and
4. That the resignation of Mayor G. G. McGeer be demanded.

The cessation of work took place in violation of their agreement. Following this a strike took place of what are termed booming gangs, men employed in sorting logs on the waterfront for export. This dispute did not directly affect the shipping federation of British Columbia, but the longshoremen, in violation of their agreement with the federation, refused to load these logs on the ground that it was unfair cargo. The shipping federation, however, were able to load this shipment with non-union men. Some time following this the longshoremen organized a