

Western Power Company of Canada Limited

For

Power, Heat and Light Rates

Apply **CONTRACT DEPARTMENT**

Carter-Cotton Building

Phone, Sey. 3520.

VANCOUVER, B. C.

ERLING H. GISKE

AUDITOR AND
COST ACCOUNTANT

1104 DOMINION BLDG.

VANCOUVER, B. C.

The Union Steamship Company of B. C. Limited

Frequent and regular sailings to all settlements, logging camps and canneries on the Northern B. C. Coast.

For full information as to freight and passenger rates and times of sailing, apply to

Head Office on Wharf, foot of Carrall Street

Phone Seymour 306

Just Across the Desk

There's a motion-picture that shows two men—miles apart—talking with each other by telephone. Finally the distance lessens, through some magic art of the photographer, and those two men are seen sitting on either side of a desk, chatting, laughing and gesticulating.

Here is a lesson to be remembered when we're rushed and impatient, forgetful that, at the other end of the line, is a man ready to adopt the same friendly, cordial attitude we would assume if he entered at our office door.

British Columbia Telephone Company, Limited

Canadian National Railways

NEW ROUTE

THROUGH Mount Robson and Jasper Parks, across the prairies through the most fertile grain belt in the world to Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec.

CONNECTIONS at Winnipeg and Duluth for Central States, at Toronto and Montreal for Eastern States and Atlantic Ports.

FINEST TRAINS, electric Lighted Standard and Tourist Sleepers, also Dining Car.

For Tickets, Literature and Information, apply to

Assistant General Passenger Agent

605 Hastings West Phone Sey. 2482 Vancouver

PUBLIC, EMPLOYEES AND INVESTORS IN A PUBLIC UTILITY

Inter-relationship of These Three in the Operations of a Public Utility Discussed by Mr. George Kidd, General Manager of the British Columbia Electric Railway.

Mr. George Kidd, general Manager of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company, has contributed a short article in the Company's "Employees' Magazine" for April on the Public Utility Triangle, meaning the company, the public and the investors, outlining their interdependence and the necessity of co-operation among all the elements involved. The place of the investors in a public utility corporation has been lost sight of in recent years by reason of certain discordances existing, on the one hand, of the public with the company, and, on the other hand, of the employees with the company. Mr. Kidd shows each element and points out their inter-relationship. Addressing himself to the employees, he says:

"In a public utility business we, as employees, find ourselves with two masters—the shareholders and the public. In fact, there is, as is well known, a triangular relationship between public, employees and investors. The shareholders have an equal duty to public and employees; the public has an equal duty to allow the employees and the shareholders fair wages; and the employees similarly have an equal responsibility to public and investors.

"For a time, two of the three sides of the triangle may get more than their share, at the expense of the third; or one may get ahead at the expense of the other two; but sooner or later there must be a readjustment.

"In order to obtain the best results the three factors ought to know one another better. As far as the investor is concerned, he knows both the public and the employees fairly well, but he is constantly, through the management of the company, asking for opinions from both. The service we give the public is our estimate of the public's needs commensurate with our resources, but in order to keep abreast with the public we ask for complaints and suggestions. Similarly, the management tries to learn the employees' needs and meet them according to its resources.

"The public is, unfortunately, not so well acquainted with the investor. It thinks he is a hateful capitalist who exploits the public for his own selfish ends. We endeavour to remove these misapprehensions on the part of the public by appealing solely for a fair return on the money invested in good faith.

"If the public could see the investors in person it would not have these views, for there are over 10,000 of them in B. C. Electric enterprises, all of them being small investors who have put their savings into this company's shares and bonds. Everybody acknowledges that saving money is a virtue, but as soon as the economical man or woman invests it he or she seems to be turned into a capitalist, with all the odium that that word conveys. The thousands of savings bank depositors in Vancouver are no different from the thousands of small investors in B. C. Electric stock.

"That the employees of this company should be before the eyes of the public in the proper light is also a necessary factor. The management of the company has, I believe, the reputation of paying fair wages. It wants to do so. I believe that the employee is entitled to fair remuneration that will enable him to maintain himself and his family in comfort, buy a fair share of the amenities of life, and bring up his children under no handicap and with full opportunities to obtain education and health.

"These wages come from the public. The rates charged for railway, light, power and gas service must be sufficient to pay the employees and the shareholders fair remuneration, the one for their work, the other for the use of their money. There is nothing to be ashamed of about capital, in spite of the Bolshevik propaganda. If we expect interest on our money in the savings bank we should give investors