

## NEWS OF AFFILIATED BODIES

### International Federation of Radiotelegraphists.

With regard to the next International Radiotelegraph Conference, to be held at Washington in 1926, the I. F. R. is informed by the International Labor Office at Geneva that "it is not yet known how and by whom the Conference which will probably revise the Radiotelegraph Convention next year will be organized, but whether it is summoned by a government or by the League of Nations, the office will in due course approach the proper authorities with a view to obtaining an opportunity for your Federation to state its views."

The objects of the International Federation of Radiotelegraphists are:

(a) To secure the adoption of uniform international regulations which make the most advantageous use of the science of radiotelegraphy for the purpose of safety of life.

(b) To establish a uniform manning

scale, and uniform normal working hours on the basis of the 8-hour day.

(c) To protect and improve the conditions of service and status of all radiotelegraphists who are members of organizations affiliated with the Federation.

(d) To assist in movements which have for their object the betterment of industrial conditions, and to secure, or assist in securing, legislation and the more effective administration of existing laws which affect the welfare of radiotelegraphists.

It will be seen from the above objects that the I. F. R. looks upon the art of radiotelegraphy (it is not a science) as a purely maritime phenomenon, and that some of the clauses need revision to cover the case of radio men employed on land. Thus, the 8-hour day means nothing unless it is coupled with the six-day week or the five-day week. However, the I. F. R. is doing splendid work, and it is to be hoped that its affiliations will eventually cover the entire radio field of the world.

The Canadian Radio Division is the first extra-European organization to affiliate with the I. F. R.

## ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE CANADIAN RADIO DIVISION

At the close of nominations on the 25th of November, the only names recorded for the general offices were those of the present incumbents. Brother F. J. Hollis is therefore elected General Chairman, and Brother W. T. Burford is elected General Secretary-treasurer by acclamation.

In the British Columbia District, Brother C. W. Mellish is elected Chairman by acclamation. Eastern District results are not yet to hand.

### British Columbia District

Members of the British Columbia District are notified that the following nominations have been received, and are asked to communicate their votes for the candidates of their choice to the Scrutineer, Bull Harbour Radio, by the quickest available means. Ship members working out of Vancouver may ask Brother W. J. Busswood, Point Grey Radio, to forward their votes. Closing date, 27th December.

For District Secretary—Candidates, F. H. Cornish and H. Wolfe; one to be elected.

For District Committee—Candidates, S. P. Jones, W. G. Lloyd and B. W. Mugford; two to be elected.

## Start the New Year Right

The mid-winter festival is with us. The various radiotelegraph administrations will send their greetings broadcast to the "hands," and the messages will be duly placed in the proper depository. Greetings are cheap, and the underpaid and ill-used radiotelegrapher should not be thought ungenerous if he receives them cynically. For kind words butter no parsnips, and the radio employers are, even with the best intentions in the world, largely responsible for the deplorable conditions that prevail in this branch of the communication industry.

We say "largely" advisedly, for the responsibility does not rest wholly on the capitalist and his representatives. It rests partly on you, Mr. Brasspounder. What, you may say, is it your fault that a pinchbeck Napoleon orders west coast stations to exchange signals every five minutes, day and night, by way of a penance for an imaginary transgression existing only in his own disordered mind? It is your fault that a dyspeptic dictator plots a scheme of penalties to be inflicted on direction finding telegraphers and appoints himself prosecutor, judge, jury and hangman for their execution? Is it your fault that your maximum salary, for telegraphing in two codes, is less than the minimum of the land-line man who knows only one? Is it your fault that radiotelegraphers everywhere are underpaid, and that the number of jobs is curtailed by a Government department's flagrant abuse of authority? Yes; it is as much your fault as anyone's, unless you are striving, in co-operation with your fellow-workers, to raise radiotelegraphy out of the rut.

The guilt lies heavily upon the average radiotelegrapher for the present state of his job. He has not acquired the degree of inquisitiveness that results in the state of mind known as class consciousness; he does not realize the full extent of his humiliation, and therefore has formed no definite determination to fight for its eradication.

The employer, be it a public or a private body, treats labor as a commodity, to be bought at the lowest market price, and to be discarded like a worn-out shoe when its usefulness is ended. And in our present social system it is not surprising that the employer should take that attitude. But it is incomprehensible that any body of intelligent workers should be content to accept the capitalist's psychology as their own, and that they, too, should regard labor as an article of commerce instead of considering it in terms of human life.

Not only does the radiotelegrapher's fault lie in his general mental outlook, but in the more immediate problems of getting a living—in the practical business of everyday life—he displays, on the average, a steady indifference toward the things that matter most to himself. His salary and his working conditions are such obvious matters that one would expect them to elicit his constant attention, with a view to their improvement. One would expect to see him participating actively in the work of the organization which offers the only means of securing that improvement. But such is not the case. If he is a member. If he is a member of his Union, he feels satisfied that he is thereby doing his share to improve the common lot; he pays his dues tardily, votes for some other fellow to represent him in the organization, and experiences a virtuous feeling that he has done all that could be expected of one person. And, in comparison with the man who remains outside the Union, he certainly has done a great deal. The non-member and the delinquent member do nothing at all. They reap where the Union member has done the sowing; they are parasites, and should be despised as such if they were not more to be pitied.

But this Bulletin will not reach the non-member. It will reach only that large body of radiotelegraphers who call themselves the Canadian Radio Division of the C. T. U. A., and we wish to urge them, at the end of the year, to take stock of themselves as trade-unionists. Have they taken part in their Union's work during the last twelve months? Have they co-operated with their Committees? Have they—have you—brought a new member into the Union?

A few have helped; the many have left it to "George."

Let us work together to make radiotelegraphy the job it OUGHT to be. Then 1926 will indeed be a Happy New Year.

—W. T. Burford.