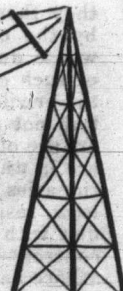
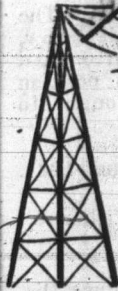


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The **RADIOTELEGRAPH BULLETIN**

of the Canadian Radio Division, No. 65,
THE COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPHERS' UNION OF AMERICA.



BRITISH COLUMBIA

NOVA SCOTIA

Vol. 1, No. 1 (Old Series, No. 12).

30th NOVEMBER, 1925

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

UNION DIRECTORY

COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPHERS' UNION OF AMERICA

Jurisdiction: All telegraphers (except those employed on the railway) in North America.

R. H. Johnson, International President;
F. B. Powers, Int'n'l. Sec.-Treas., 113 South Ashland Blvd., Chicago, Ills.

CANADIAN RADIO DIVISION, NO. 65, C. T. U. A.

Jurisdiction: All radiotelegraphers and radioelectricians (except those on the payroll of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of Canada, Ltd.) in Canada.

F. J. Hollis, General Chairman, Radio Station, Alert Bay, B. C.; W. T. Burford, General Secretary-Treasurer, 4144 14th Avenue, West, Vancouver, B.C. General Committee: F. J. Hollis, W. T. Burford, C. W. Mellish, F. S. Ogilvie, A. Stocker, H. Wolfe.

British Columbia District Committee:

C. W. Mellish, Chairman, Digby Radio, Prince Rupert, B.C.; H. Wolfe, Secretary, Estevan Point, B.C.; W. G. Lloyd, SS. "Griffco"; S. P. Jones, Digby Radio, Prince Rupert, B.C. District Organizer: B. W. Mugford, 1750 4th St., Victoria, B.C.

Eastern District Committee:

A. Stocker, Chairman, Radio Station, Canso, N.S.; F. S. Ogilvie, Secretary; J. L. Walsh, Radio Station, Canso, N.S. Delegates to Vancouver District Council, C. T. U. A.: W. J. Busswood, W. T. Burford, E. S. Brooks, W. G. Lloyd. Delegates to Vancouver Trades and Labor Council: W. J. Busswood, W. T. Burford, E. S. Brooks.

VANCOUVER DISTRICT COUNCIL, NO. 15, C. T. U. A.

Jurisdiction: All C. T. U. A. members in British Columbia. W. T. Burford, President; C. H. Gibbs, Vice-President; W. T. Jones, Secretary-Treasurer, 303 Pender St., W., Vancouver, B.C.; E. H. Slim, Sentinel.

VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Jurisdiction: All trade union members in Vancouver, New Westminster, and District. R. H. Neelands, M.L.A., President; P. R. Bengough, Secretary, 16 Hastings St., E., Vancouver, B.C.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RADIOTELEGRAPHERS

Jurisdiction: All autonomous radiotelegraph unions in the world. J. Madsen, President, Denmark; H. Robinson, Secretary, 8 Canute Road, Southampton, England.

FOREWORD, BY THE GENERAL CHAIRMAN

The Constitution of our Union (Art. XX., Sec. 9) provides that, "Except in the case of subordinate units addressing their own members, no subordinate unit nor any member or members of the Union shall issue any circular or petition to subordinate units."

The Radiotelegraph Bulletin, which has hitherto been published in mimeographed form, will contain only the minutes of meetings of the Canadian Radio Division (on the rare occasions when it is possible to hold meetings) and such other communications as would ordinarily be submitted at such meetings. Local notes and all communications respecting the internal affairs of the Division and of the Union will continue to be published in the Commercial Telegraphers' Journal, which, under the able editorship of Brother Frank Powers, adequately fulfils its function as a Union magazine. —F. J. H.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT FLOUTS THE LAW

Thin Edge of the Wedge to Abolish Radio Certificates—Menace to All Canadian Telegraphers.

CERTAIN trades exist in which the qualifications of those employed have to be stipulated, in the public interest, by direct legislation. In the case of ship-masters, for example, the safeguarding of lives and property at sea is of such paramount importance that stringent examinations are provided by law and by regulation. With radiotelegraphers, the same factor—the protection of lives and property—governs the conduct of their trade; but in their case a further consideration has to be added. That consideration is the possibility of interference arising from several transmitting stations functioning at the same time.

While the laws of all countries, bearing on radio communication, were originally drawn up with the safety factor chiefly in mind, the rapid growth of radiotelegraphy (which term includes radiotelephony) has caused the interference factor to outweigh even the safety factor, although the latter has itself grown in importance. The chaos that would result from a laissez-faire policy in radio has for long been so obvious that all the nations of the earth have, during the last dozen years, worked together to secure uniformity in their national laws and rules. Canada is a party to the International Radiotelegraph Convention of 1912, and is pledged to control the operation of her sta-

tions, on ship or shore, in accordance with international usage.

All persons in Canada who operate radiotelephone transmitters are required by law to be in possession of certificates of proficiency in radiotelegraphy issued by the Dominion Department of Marine and Fisheries. At broadcasting radiotelephone stations the certificate may be either of the First Class or of the Radiotelephone Class, but as none of the latter can yet be obtained the First is the only qualifying certificate in existence. On ships, radiotelephone transmitters may be operated either by First or Second Class certificate holders, according to the kind of vessel and the nature of the voyage, the law and the regulations made under the law being identical for both radiotelegraph and radiotelephone.

That is the law. But in practice the holders of First and Second Class certificates find themselves virtually excluded from all radiotelephone transmitting stations through the negligence of the Marine and Fisheries Department, in permitting persons with no certificates whatever to operate such stations. It matters not at all to the officials at Ottawa if men who have taken the trouble and gone to the expense of acquiring a knowledge of telegraphy and of the technique of radio, who have paid the fee and passed the examination for a certificate, find that the document

they then possess is rendered nugatory by the callous indifference of those whose duty it is to protect the holders of such certificates in the enjoyment of the privileges they have earned. It matters not at all if certificated telegraphers are out of work, and if their families are in want, so long as the Ottawa functionaries are able to take the line of least resistance and to avoid any conflict with the influential concerns which control the radiotelephone stations, ashore and afloat.

For sheer ignorance of the law and of the regulations, to say nothing of his obligations to administer both of them in the letter and the spirit, the letters of the deputy minister of Marine and Fisheries, shown in these columns, would be hard to excel. Setting himself higher than the law, assuming powers greater than those possessed by the Canadian government as a participant in the International Convention, he arrogates to himself the right to say whether a certificate is or is not necessary, in complete disdain of the practice of all other parts of the world.

All other countries may demand that their radiotelephone stations shall be operated by certificated men; but that means nothing to him. The United States government, notorious in some respects for its subservience to vested interests, leaves Canada far behind in radio law enforcement. Only Canada, of all nations, is small enough, apparently, to have its bond, as represented in a radio certificate, set aside by an individual charged to respect it.

It will be remembered that in September, 1924, the Canadian Radio Division protested against the practice of the Marine and Fisheries Department in permitting uncertificated persons to operate radiotelephone transmitters. The Director of Radiotelegraphs (Marine and Fisheries Dept.), Mr. C. P. Edwards, showed no disposition to enforce the law as it stands, although it was pointed out to him that many holders of government certificates were debarred from earning a living through the failure of the Department to insist that all operators of radiotelephone transmitters should possess the qualifications required by law.

That the Union's position is well taken will be seen from the following excerpts from the law and the regulations made in accordance with the law. We make no apology for quoting somewhat at length, for it is important that members should realize that no room has been left for the minister of Marine and Fisheries or his subordinates to enforce or not to enforce the law according to their personal predilections.

Extracts from The Radiotelegraph Act (Act 3-4, George V., Chap. 43; assented to 6th June, 1913; amended 13th June, 1923).

Sec. 2. "In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, (b) 'radiotelegraph' includes any wireless system for conveying electric signals or messages including radiotelephones."

Sec. 10. "The Governor in Council may (b) accede to any international convention in connection with radiotelegraphy, and make such regula-

tions as may be necessary to carry out and make effective the terms of such convention and prescribe penalties recoverable on summary conviction for the violation of such regulations; provided that such penalties shall not exceed five hundred dollars and costs."

Extract from Part II. of the Regulations (Revised to 1st June, 1923; issued by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in accordance with Section 11 of The Radiotelegraph Act, Chapter 43, Statutes 1913).

No. 7. "Private Commercial Broadcasting Licences. . . . The station must be operated by a person who is the holder of a 'First Class' or a 'Radiotelephone' Certificate of Proficiency in Radio."

Extract from Part I. of the Regulations (Approved by the Governor in Council and issued in accordance with Section 10 of The Radiotelegraph Act, Chapter 43, Statutes 1913).

No. 3. (i) "The provisions of the International Radiotelegraph Convention of London, 1912, and of the regulations annexed thereto, shall be observed by all 'coast stations' established in Canada, and by all 'ship stations' on board any vessel registered in Canada."

Extract from the Detailed Service Regulations appended to the International Radiotelegraph Convention of London, 1912.

Article 10. Sec. 1. "The service of the ship station must be carried out by a telegraphist holding a certificate issued by the government to which the ship is subject, or, in an emergency and for one voyage only, by another government party to the Convention."

Sec. 2. "There shall be two classes of certificates." (The first and second class certificates are then described; the distinction between the two being in the rate of speed at which the holder must be able to telegraph in the International Morse Code.)

As is partly shown by the foregoing quotations, the International Radiotelegraph Convention has the force of law in Canada; it cannot be modified in any way by any official. Such regulations as are issued in conformity with the Radiotelegraph Act also have the force of law (when duly published in the "Canada Gazette"), provided they do not conflict with the Convention. Thus, while the Department of Marine and Fisheries, charged with the enforcement of the Act, may make regulations to govern the details of procedure in certain cases, the Department's power to regulate is strictly limited in scope. In the important matter of the grades of telegraphers required to operate transmitting stations of various kinds, the Department has to be guided by the Act, the Convention, and—in the long run—by international custom.

The Canadian Radio Division, having protested vigorously at the laxity with which the law was being enforced, and having corresponded with the Department of Marine and Fisheries for several months in this connection, finally turned over the task of securing fair treatment for certificate holders to the Vancouver

District Council of the C. T. U. A.: The following correspondence will show, more completely than any attempted narrative, the very precarious position which the Department has sought to occupy:

Vancouver, B.C., 24 June, 1925.

The Deputy Minister,
Department of Marine and Fisheries,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I am directed by the Vancouver District Council of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America to submit to you its view that the present practice of allowing uncertificated persons to operate radiotelephone transmitters, both on board ship and at broadcast stations ashore, is grossly unfair to the holders of government certificates, and is contrary to the purpose of the Radiotelegraph Act of 1913, and the International Radiotelegraph Convention.

The Radiotelegraph Act provides that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries shall make regulations to prescribe the class of radiotelegrapher who is to be carried on each class of radio station. Such regulations to be published in the "Canada Gazette." From the published regulations to which the Council has access, the classes of radiotelegraphers are not a matter of opinion, but are laid down in definitive terms. Broadcast stations are, under the regulations, required to carry radiotelegraphers in possession of either First Class or Radiotelephone certificates, and ship stations voluntarily equipped are required to carry one Second Class radiotelegrapher. But despite the fact that radiotelegraph inspectors are scattered throughout the country, the licences of the broadcast stations in the very towns where these officials function are in many cases irregularly endorsed. The usual formula inserted in the space provided for the description of the operator required to be carried on the particular station appears to be: "Any person who is competent, in the opinion of the Minister." The effect of this endorsement is that any person whatsoever, without even the degree of proficiency required to secure an amateur certificate, may operate the transmitter.

As far as the Council has been able to ascertain, no country in the world, other than Canada, condones such laxity in the observance of the International Convention and of the law of the land in respect to radiotelegraphy. In all other countries, broadcast stations are operated by competent telegraphers, who listen for distress calls and complaints of interference during intervals between transmissions, and ship stations are similarly staffed by holders of proper certificates.

This matter has been taken up by one of the subordinate units of this Union, the Canadian Radio Division, but has not hitherto apparently received the attention which might be expected from your department in a case so closely affecting the public interest. It has been stated by the Director of Radiotelegraphs, in your department, that, as no arrangements have yet been made for the conduct of examinations in radio-

telephony, the latter class of certificate is in abeyance. This is made the excuse for permitting persons without any certificate whatever to operate broadcast stations and ship radiotelephone stations in Canada. Upon his pointing out that First Class radiotelegraphers were eligible to perform this work, and that a number of these men were unemployed, the General Secretary of the Canadian Radio Division, received an abusive answer from the local radio superintendent at Victoria, B.C., under date of Sept. 20th, 1924, and a further letter addressed to the Director of Radiotelegraphs at Ottawa, on the 25th of October, 1924, still remains unacknowledged.

The Council submits that the issuance of a certificate of proficiency, after examination, and the acceptance of a fee, constitute an agreement to give the holder of that certificate preferential treatment as compared with those who have not passed a similar examination. It is hoped that the Department will make clear its intention to stand squarely by that agreement, by discontinuing a course of action which tends to make radio certificates waste paper. An early announcement to that effect will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

W. T. JONES, Secy.-Treas.,
Vancouver Dist. Council, No. 15.

Department of Marine and Fisheries
Ottawa,

10th July, 1925.

Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th June (unsigned), with regard to the operation of radiotelephone transmitters by uncertificated parties, and in reply would state that as soon as this new telephone art is stabilized, and procedure and technique have become more or less standard, the Department proposes to establish a regular examination suitable for the requirements of this class of service.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. HAWKEN,

Acting Deputy Minister.

The Secretary-Treasurer,
Commercial Telegraphers Union of
America,

303 Pender Street, West,
Vancouver, B.C.

Vancouver, B.C.,
29 July, 1925.

The Deputy Minister,
Department of Marine and Fisheries,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (File No. 218-13-11) of the 10th instant, with reference to the operation of radiotelephone transmitters by uncertificated persons.

In reply, I am directed to say that the Council regards the Department's at-

titude in this connection, as outlined in your letter, as most unsatisfactory from the point of view of the telegraphers of this country. While the Council fully understands that it is the intention to establish an examination for radiotelephone operators, there appears to be no reason for waiving the enforcement of the existing regulations until such examination is arranged.

The suggestion that the procedure and technique of radiotelephony are not yet sufficiently standardized would seem more plausible if it applied to the whole art of radio communication, no branch of which is yet absolutely standard and probably never will be. Since radiotelephone transmitters employ the ordinary circuits of a continuous wave telegraph transmitter, with a microphone substituted for the key, and with the addition of a special modulation system, it is not understood why a degree of proficiency at least equal to that required to operate a radiotelegraph C. W. transmitter is not demanded. Both radiotelegraph and radiotelephone sets are capable of the same amount of interference with other stations, and unless the operators of both are competent telegraphers it is manifestly impossible for them to ascertain, by listening in, whether they are or are not causing interference.

It is considered strange that, while Canada is waiting for the telephone art to become "stabilized," all other countries of the world are enforcing the law as it stands. No one may operate a radiotelephone transmitter in the United States, for example, unless he is in possession of a Second Class certificate, and in other countries the regulations are even more stringent and are enforced without favour to vested interests. No country other than Canada permits its radio law enforcement service to remain at a standstill on the plea that radiotelephony is too mysterious.

In the opinion of this Council, the welfare of the telegraphers of Canada is vitally affected by this non-enforcement of the regulations made under the provisions of the Radiotelegraph Act. In the first place, the granting of wide-open licences to radiotelephone stations has already practically excluded the holders of First Class certificates from operating such stations, thus depriving them of the privilege conferred by the Act and Regulations. Secondly, the policy of laissez faire in radiotelephony, besides directly injuring the holders of certificates, appears to be the thin edge of the wedge towards dispensing with the necessity of employing certificated men anywhere. And, thirdly, the maintenance of a number of land radiotelephone stations, operated by non-telegrapher personnel, is regarded as a menace to the organized telegraph workers of Canada, particularly to the press telegraphers, since most of the stations in this class are controlled, or are available for control, by newspaper corporations.

For these reasons, the Council requests that the Department reconsider its present attitude towards the certificate question, to the end that the Regulations be enforced in the case of radiotelephone transmitters to the same ex-

tent that they are already observed in the case of the radiotelegraph.

Yours very truly,

W. T. JONES,

Secretary-Treasurer,
Vancouver District Council,
Commercial Telegraphers' Union
of America.

Department of Marine and Fisheries
Ottawa,

20th August, 1925.

Re Operation of Radiotelephone Stations
Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 29th ultimo, with regard to the employment of certificated operators in connection with radiotelephone stations, and in reply would state that after careful examination of departmental letter of the 10th July, we fail to see any reference in the same to withholding certificates on the plea that radiotelephony is too mysterious.

Radiotelephone service may be divided into several classes; the first is "ship to shore" communication on a regular ship to shore wave. In this case the Department calls for the service of a regular First Class operator.

The second class covers "broadcasting" stations, and in this case the Department does not appreciate the necessity of requiring that the operator in charge of the apparatus be able to transmit and receive in the Morse Code. The fact that the United States law requires a constant watch to be maintained, on the ship wave, by broadcast stations, has no bearing on our case, as the Canadian law does not call for such a watch.

The Third Class covers stations carrying on point-to-point communications and stations providing communication between ship and shore on waves other than the regular ones allotted to the telegraph stations, and sufficiently removed from such regular waves as to avoid possibility of interference. In these cases it is also not obvious to the Department that any advantage would be gained by requiring that the operators be able to operate in the International Morse Code, since if stations in this class interfere with one another, the operators can correct the same just as effectively by voice as by code.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. JOHNSTON,

Deputy Minister.

The Secretary-Treasurer,
Vancouver District Council,
Commercial Telegraphers' Union
of America, 303 Pender St.,
Vancouver, B. C.

Vancouver, B.C.,
29 September, 1925.

The Deputy Minister,
Department of Marine and Fisheries,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th of August with

reference to the operation of radiotelephone transmitting stations by uncertificated persons, which has been placed before the Council.

The Council notes with satisfaction the change in the Department's attitude towards this question. It will be recalled that the position taken in the Department's letter of the 10th of July was that until "this new telephone art is stabilized, and procedure and technique have become more or less standard," it was not proposed to insist upon the requirements of the regulations made under the Radiotelegraph Act. As has been pointed out, the necessity for such a period of waiting has not been felt in any other country, and the Council is glad to note that the "new art," which was sufficiently mature to be legislated about and regulated some years ago, is now recognized by the Department as having advanced during the last few weeks to the extent of being no longer mysterious. But the Council fails to agree with the Department's present contention that, regardless of "stability" and "standardization," radio certificates are really not necessary.

Taking the various classes of radiotelephone service as defined in your letter:

Class 1. Ship and shore communication on the regular ship-and-shore wavelengths. The International Radiotelegraph Convention of 1912 allots 300 metres as a ship wavelength. If, for operation on such wavelengths, "the Department calls for the services of a regular First Class operator," the Council would like to know why this requirement is not demanded of the following vessels on the Pacific Coast of Canada:

Name of Ship	Call	Wave-length	Boat class	Eligible grade of Operator
B. C. Forester	VGJR	300	3rd	2nd Class
Cottonwood	VGLP	300	3rd	2nd Class
Eunice B.	VGFS	300	3rd	2nd Class
Kiora	VGCK	300	3rd	2nd Class
Elmera	VGLD	300	3rd	2nd Class

With these vessels may be classed the steamers "Coutli" and "Prospective," which use wavelengths of 375 and 350 metres respectively, and are therefore sufficiently close to 300 metres to cause interference. Not one of these ships—the only ships equipped with radiotelephones on the Pacific Coast of Canada—carries a telegrapher. The Council submits that if these boats are big enough to carry transmitters which are capable of causing interference, they are big enough to carry the operators demanded by the regulations and by Article 10 of the International Convention; further, that in winking at these infractions the Department is not only permitting a breach of the law but also causing a real hardship to the holders of its certificates.

Class 2. Broadcasting stations. While the Department may not, as you state, appreciate the necessity for having a telegrapher in charge of broadcast stations, the regulations made by the Department, pursuant to the Radiotelegraph Act of 1913, and in conformity with the practice of the rest of the

world, call for a First Class operator at such stations. The Council would be glad to know the reason, if any, for the non-enforcement of this regulation, and for any information as to what conditions in Canada are so markedly different from those prevailing elsewhere as to warrant such a difference in administrative practice. While it is not suspected that the Department is greatly concerned for the welfare of those holders of First Class certificates who are by right entitled to a share of the positions on shore, this aspect of the matter is of great moment to the Council. The numerous married ship telegraphers who have been at sea for a number of years find that, by the laxity in the enforcement of the regulations for broadcast stations, the more congenial shore position which they have been looking forward to has been placed beyond their reach. For this reason, and for the protection of the organized press telegraphers against a newspaper-owned and non-telegrapher-operated radio communication service, the Council requests that the Department change its policy with a view to insistence on proper telegrapher control of broadcast transmitters.

Class 3. This class should be split in two. In the case of land radiotelephone stations, far removed from the seaboard, the consideration of interference with other radiotelephone stations, and with radiotelegraph stations, should of course be the determining factor in regulating the Class of Operator to be carried. It is not understood how non-telegrapher personnel at such stations could be made aware of interference caused by them with radiotelegraph stations not also equipped with telephones, and in other countries telegraphers are borne on such radiotelephone stations. One would not expect to find radiotelephone point-to-point stations on the sea coast operated by other than competent telegraphers, in view of the likelihood of interference with ship stations, yet the station at Knight Inlet, B.C., has no certificated operator and its wavelength of 540 metres is very close to the regular ship wave.

In the case of ship-and-shore communication, whether carried out "on waves other than the regular ones" or not, both the International Convention and the Canadian regulations made under the Radiotelegraph Act require that telegraphers shall be employed. It is apparently sought to palliate the failure to observe these rules by speaking of the use of waves "sufficiently removed from the regular waves as to avoid possibility of interference," but a slight acquaintance with radiotelephony convinces one that such an absolute avoidance of interference is impossible. It is also obvious that a ship station, equipped with radiotelegraph apparatus only, could not ask a radiotelephone station to cease interfering except by the use of telegraphy.

In conclusion, it is submitted that whatever further degree of "stabilization" or "standardization" remains to be attained—whatever air of mystery might still cling to the subject—is all the more reason for the enforcement,

without favour or prejudice, of such regulations as have already been made in conformity with the law, and the Council requests your Department to see that they are administered in a spirit of fairness to the great number of telegraphers whose livelihood they so vitally affect.

Yours very truly,
W. T. JONES,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Vancouver District Council,
Commercial Telegraphers' Union
of America.

(218-13-11) Vancouver, B.C.,
November 6th, 1925.

The Deputy Minister,
Department of Marine and Fisheries,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I should be glad to have an acknowledgment of my letter of 29th September, with reference to the employment of certificated telegraphers on radiotelephone transmitting stations.

In this connection it may be noted that still another steamer, the "Alco," is now added to the list of those which are operated by non-telegrapher personnel, contrary to the law and with the apparent sanction of your department.

Before taking this matter further, we shall welcome a statement of the department's intentions respecting the enforcement of the law and the regulations.

Yours very truly,
W. T. JONES,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Vancouver District Council No. 15,
Commercial Telegraphers' Union
of America.

VOLUNTARY ASSESSMENT OF BENEFICIARIES IN C. G. R. S.

The receipt is acknowledged of the following amounts from those members who secured increases of salary under the recent revision. The spirit shown by these members in the prompt recognition of their obligation to the Union is appreciated by the General Committee.

It is hoped to publish a further list at an early date showing any further contributions of one month's net increase. Several of the amounts shown below are part payments, the balance being promised by the members concerned.

S. A. Shatford	\$20.00
A. I. Deacon	4.00
F. S. Ogilvie	15.00
H. M. Cox	10.00
V. J. Bond	2.50
B. W. Mugford	10.00
H. D. Tee	4.00
E. H. Harris	19.00
A. E. Axcell	7.50

FOREST BRANCH DISPUTE

British Columbia Department of Lands

Case 10 (Continued from Bulletin No. 10 of the Canadian Radio Division).

The Forest Branch of the British Columbia Department of Lands maintains a radiotelegraph service between three stations, situated at Myrtle Point, Thurston Bay (Sonora Island), and the Vancouver Court House. This service has the unique feature of being complete in itself, and without connection with the land-line telegraph system of the country. There is therefore no means of cutting off its communication with the outside world in the event of a dispute, for the outside world doesn't bother it at all. Another peculiar feature is that the equipment of these stations is supplied by the Marconi Company, and maintained by that firm, but the radiotelegraphers are not employed by the Marconi Company. If they were employed by the Marconi Company they would be paid in accordance with the terms of the agreement existing between the Company and the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America, and they would be better paid than they are now. Whether this arrangement is or is not designed for the purpose of keeping down wages can only be surmised; but it looks that way. The men are taken on through the agency of the Marconi Company, as a rule, but they are on the payroll of the Department of Lands.

It would be a backward step to propose that these three stations should be removed from public to private control, and the Union would oppose such a transfer with all the force at its command, but it ill becomes a provincial government department to lay itself open to the charge of paying less than the prevailing rate of salary, especially in the circumstances which we have recited.

The three radiotelegraphers are paid a fixed salary of \$125.00 per month. They are thus discriminated against, not only in the amount of their compensation, but also in being excluded from the system of annual increments obtaining in respect to the other civil service employees of the provincial government.

It has been pointed out, in negotiations begun by the Canadian Radio Division in January last, that the service required at these stations is comparable in every way with that of commercial stations. Although the Deputy Minister of Lands appears to think that, the service not being strictly "commercial," standard wage rates are not applicable, the work is commercial in every sense except that the telegrams are sent free by government officials. This probably accounts for the volume of message traffic being even heavier than at some of the smaller commercial stations; and during the forest fire season the stations have all the work they can accommodate. If the average month's business of each station, which is about 7,000 words, were charged for at the moderate commercial rate of five cents per word, the three stations would earn a revenue of \$1,050.00 per month. An extension of the ordinary interdepartmental account-

ing system would therefore quickly show that these stations return a large "paper" profit for each month of their operation.

Each of the three radiotelegraphers has to perform a considerable amount of clerical work, in addition to his radio duties, and for this he is paid nothing.

At similar stations in the two largest radiotelegraph administrations in Canada, the salary would be as follows (including all allowances, as detailed for the information of the Lands Department):

1st year	\$119.00	per month
2nd "	124.00	" "
3rd "	134.00	" "
4th "	139.00	" "
5th "	149.00	" "
6th "	154.00	" "

Marconi Coast Station Service

1st year	.....	\$123.00	per month
2nd "	.....	128.00	" "
3rd "	.....	138.00	" "
4th "	.....	148.00	" "
5th "	.....	158.00	" "
6th "	.....	168.00	" "

These scales are not what they should be, but an increase to the same level in the Department of Lands will be satisfactory for the moment.

This dispute having been brought to the attention of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, we understand that it will be discussed by the President of the Council, Mr. R. H. Neelands, M.L.A., in the present session of the Legislature, and we anticipate an early adjustment of the salaries of our Forest Branch members.

CANADIAN NATIONAL STEAMSHIPS DISPUTE

(Case No. 12)

Increase Probable but Local Official's Attitude Distinctly Not Thornton-esque.

The General Committee has taken up the case for improved salaries and working conditions for its ten members on the Canadian National Steamships in the manner indicated below.

Vancouver, B. C.
25 October, 1925.

Mr. B. C. Keeley,
Pacific Coast Manager,
Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Ltd.
1150 Main Street,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

I am directed by our General Committee, representing the Pursers, Radiotelegraphers, Assistant Pursers, and Freight Clerks of the Canadian National Steamships, all of whom are members of this Union, to call your attention to the discrepancy existing between the salaries and working conditions prevailing on these vessels and the salaries and conditions obtaining elsewhere for work of a similar character and standard, and to request the removal of this anomaly.

The salaries paid to Pursers in the two parallel services, the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific, on the Pacific coast of Canada, are as follows:

Shipping Route	Canadian National	Canadian Pacific
Northern B. C. and Alaskan run:		
S.S. "Prince George,"		
"Prince Rupert,"		
"Princess Alice,"		
"Princess Charlotte,"		
"Princess Louise"	\$155.00	\$170.00

General coastal run:

"Prince Charles,"		
"Princess Beatrice,"		
"Princess Mary"	130.00	155.00

Vancouver Island & Queen Charlotte Islands: SS. "Princess Maquinna," "Prince John"

	130.00	155.00
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The Radiotelegraphers, Assistant Pursers, and Freight Clerks on the Canadian National ships (who all combine radiotelegraphy with other duties) are paid \$100.00, \$80.00 and \$75.00 respectively, these being fixed ratings with no annual increments. The Freight Clerks on the Canadian Pacific ships, who are not required to have radio qualifications, are paid a scale of salaries rising from \$75.00 per month by annual increments to \$115.00, in four years.

The foregoing figures seem to need no embellishment being, it is thought, ample evidence of that under-payment which has for long been a rankling grievance among the Canadian National personnel. It is submitted that the salaries paid to Pursers should be placed on the same basis as those of the Canadian Pacific, and that the other grades should be granted annual increments on the Canadian Pacific scale, plus a reasonable allowance in recognition of their radiotelegraph qualifications. It is not considered that this allowance, which, as included in the undermentioned scale, amounts to only \$10.00 a month at the maximum, is adequate remuneration for the radiotelegraph duties performed, but the Union is prepared to accept it as an adjustment for the immediate future.

The proposed scale is as follows:

Pursers: SS. "Prince George" and "Prince Rupert," \$170.00 per month.

Pursers: SS. "Prince Charles" and "Prince John," \$155.00 per month.

Radiotelegraphers, Assistant Pursers, and Freight Clerks, on all ships:

1st year \$ 90.00 per month
2nd year 100.00 per month
3rd year 110.00 per month
4th year 125.00 per month
and after.

The sleeping accommodation for the Radiotelegrapher on the "Prince John" being in the office where an uninterrupted period of rest is impossible, it is requested that a separate cabin may be provided. It is also hoped that you will consider the propriety of removing the distinction at present existing on the "Prince Charles" as regards dining quarters, whereby the Purser sits with the officers of the ship and the Radiotelegrapher eats down below, on a board fastened to the wall. No reason is apparent why the Radiotelegrapher should not receive treatment on a Canadian National boat similar to that accorded to such workers on all other vessels of Canadian registry.

As uniform clothing has to be worn, it is requested that an allowance of \$45.00 per year (in addition to the scale shown above) be paid to cover this expense, an allowance of that amount being paid to the employees of the Marconi Company.

Our Committee believes that the adjustment of the salaries and working conditions of the office personnel on the Canadian National ships in the manner indicated would remove the present dissatisfaction, and as it is well known that the policy of the Canadian National Railways is to pay the prevailing rates for all branches of the service (as exemplified by the agreement existing between the Railways and this Union, affecting the land-line telegraphers), the Committee feels confident that you will accept these recommendations as a fair basis of settlement.

Yours very truly,
W. T. BURFORD,
General Secretary,
Canadian Radio Division,
C. T. U. A.

Canadian Government Merchant Marine Limited

File 230-1

Vancouver, B. C.,
14th November, 1925.

Mr. W. T. Burford,
General Secretary,
Canadian Radio Division,
Commercial Telegraphers' Union
of America,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Your communication of the 25th of October was received in my absence, hence delay in answering.

We have noted carefully the contents of your letter and would say that we are not prepared at this time to discuss the adjustment of wages of the Pursers and Assistants on our Coast passenger steamers through your Association, but we have in mind certain adjustments in the rates which will be taken up with the parties concerned individually.

Yours very truly,
B. C. KEELEY,
Pacific Coast Manager.

230-1

Vancouver, B. C.,
17 November, 1925.

Mr. B. C. Keeley,
Pacific Coast Manager,
Canadian Govt. Merchant Marine, Ltd.
1150 Main Street,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 14th instant, and note that you are not at present prepared to discuss with the Union the wages of its members employed on the Canadian National Steamships, although individual adjustments are contemplated.

It cannot be too clearly stated that the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America is not seeking recognition from your Company, for that recognition has already been accorded. It has long ago been found to be to the advantage of the Canadian National Railways and its subsidiary organizations to deal with the Union in the collective interests of its members, in preference to attempting a piecemeal settlement of disputes with individual employees, and if our General Committee were to find that the announced policy of Sir Henry Thornton towards trade unions is not

observed in a particular branch of the Canadian National system, it would naturally make its representations in a quarter where courtesy is assured.

Our Committee believed that this dispute might be best adjusted by approaching, in the first instance, the responsible local official, and it is still our hope that by this means a prompt and satisfactory settlement may be effected.

The grievance of the Pursers, Radiotelegraphers, Assistant Pursers, and Freight Clerks on the Canadian National Steamships is of long standing, and is so self-evident from the facts submitted in our letter of the 25th of October as to discountenance any equivocation. We shall therefore be glad to learn that the Union's proposals for the amelioration of present conditions are acceptable to you, or to be granted the favour of an interview, at an early date, for their full and frank discussion.

I am directed to ask that you will be good enough to inform us in this connection by Saturday, the 28th instant.

Yours very truly,
W. T. BURFORD,

General Secretary,
Canadian Radio Division,
Commercial Telegraphers' Union
of America.

Further action, after the time of going to press, the 21st of November, will be reported in a later issue.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT RADIOTELEGRAPH SERVICE

Case 6 (Continued from Bulletin No. 6
of the Canadian Radio Division)

In view of the more or less satisfactory assurances of the Minister of Labour that the recent Dominion order in council, P. C. 1537, will be "acceptably applied" in respect to the six-day working week, the General Committee of the Canadian Radio Division ordered the cancellation of the strike ballot which was being taken on both coasts of Canada, on the 17th of October. The next issue of the Radiotelegraph Bulletin will contain the whole correspondence in connection with this dispute.