

(Bryan Cooney's Letter to the Penticton Herald cont'd)

"We agree that the mat should be looked under but that does not mean that you should shut your eyes and pull the mat over your head."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR, Oliver B.C. Sept. 17, 1955

Dear Sir; Now that the strike is over and everybody is back on the job it is a good time to take a close look at the results to see what has been gained, what has been lost, and what has been learned.

In pre-strike negotiations the union asked for a wage hike of 10¢ an hour for men and 8¢ for women. The issue was brought before a board of conciliation which recommended no increase in wages. It was a majority report, as those things nearly always are. The conciliation board chairman who was neutral, sided with the grower-industry representative. Naturally, the union representative opposed the other two as favored a wage raise. Because of the lower price of box shooks this year the industry is able to save on this item a considerable sum of money, all of which was offered the union in the form of a wage increase of 13¢ an hour across the board. The union declined to accept this offer, and also declined to arbitrate the dispute, so the strike followed.

The strike lasted 16 days and was settled on a basis of a wage increase of 5 cents an hour which is just 2¢ an hour more than was offered before the strike.

The union thus made a gain by the strike of exactly two cents an hour, or 18 cents gain for a nine hour day. Those on strike lost 14 days' work. This means a loss of about \$100 for the female worker and \$132 for the male worker. To recover this cash loss will take the female