

"BCFGA PRESIDENT OUTLINES VIEWPOINT ON ARBITRATION" 1955

"The question of arbitration hinges on willingness of both sides to accept as fact sworn evidence which cannot be successfully challenged or refuted by either side. This is the line of thought taken by A.R. Garrish, BCFGA President, in a statement regarding arbitration, made in the aftermath of the packinghouse workers' strike."

"STRIKE IS NOT A GOOD METHOD"

-Garrish said: "Now that the recent labour dispute has been settled for this season it might be well to clear up some misunderstandings which obviously exist in regard to the process of arbitration. I think this is particularly timely as the events of the last few weeks have clearly illustrated that the procedure of a strike cannot possibly be regarded as a satisfactory method of resolving differences over wages between the Industry and the packing house workers."

- "It was with a view to finding a long-term solution to this problem that the industry, and particularly the executive of the BCFGA, some three or four years ago adopted arbitration as the corner stone of its policy to labour matters affecting packing house employees. To date, no reasonable alternative has been proposed. It is true that the industry was more reluctant to follow arbitration procedure a few years ago, but it must be remembered that the only machinery then apparently available for arbitration was a conciliation board appointed under the old industrial conciliation and arbitration act. Under the old act this virtually placed the decision in the hands of the chairman of the board who was drawn from a panel of people who devoted a good part of its time to serving in that capacity."

"SPLIT DECISION SEEMED CERTAIN"

- "With the pattern then in existence it appeared as though some compromise or split decision was almost inevitable regardless of the merits of the arguments on either side. This seemed to assure that the union stood to gain at least half of its demands. However, in later years, particularly in 1954, when under the new act it was agreed to establish an arbitration board with a judge presiding as chairman, we felt that we had arrived at a basis whereby all the factors presented could be properly weighed and assessed by someone with a thorough training in judicial procedure. It was a great disappointment to the executive of the BCFGA when the union after one adverse decision, took a stand against any further settlements on this basis."